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The Daily and Weekly Commercial—NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper repeatedly from the Postoffice—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

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FIRST EDITION.

NATIONAL RETURNING BOARD.

Proceedings Before the Tribunal Yesterday.

The Arguments of William M. Evarts and Charles O'Conor.

WASHINGTON, February 5.—The announcement that William M. Evarts and Charles O'Conor would make the arguments to day before the Electoral Commission seemed to impel everybody in Washington toward the capitol, and long before the opening time a surging mass besieged the doors of the commission chamber, seeking admission.

Judge Clifford, soon after eleven o'clock, called the commission to order. The journal being read, Mr. Evarts began his argument. He said:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Commission:

The order of the commission in directing the attention of counsel lays out for their consideration three topics: First, whether under the powers possessed by the commission any evidence can be received beyond that disclosed in the three certificates from the State of Florida which were opened by the President of the Senate in the presence of the two Houses of Congress, and which, under authority of the recent act of Congress, are transmitted to this commission. Second, if anything be received, what that evidence is; and thirdly, what evidence other than the certificates, if any, is now before the commission. It will dispose of the last question under the order of the commission first. It is suggested that certain packages of papers brought here by the messenger that brought the certificates and objections, are already evidence in the possession of the commission. These packages contain, what, degree of authenticity, or what scope of efficacy is to be given them as particular matters of evidence and particular forms of proof are unknown to us and unknown to the commission. The proposition upon which it is claimed this evidence, whatever it may be, is "subject undoubtedly to discussion and rejection by the commission as not pertinent and not important," which mentioned in one of the objection interposed against the first certificate as a matter on which the objection was founded, instead being a warrant, as it seems to the objector on which he objects. He [the objector] thereby makes it part of the evidence before the commission. If there were no objection, the case said to be provided for the exercises of your authority is not produced. It objection is made (however inartificial or imperfect), the case has arisen; and that the objection narrows and limits and provides the issue and the law upon which your jurisdiction attaches is a pure fabrication out of utterly unsubstantial and immaterial suggestions in the law. The other question, as to whether evidence in the possession of either House or both Houses of Congress in the shape of committee reports or conclusions of either of these bodies in any form, is transmissible and may be proposed to the commission and may be received and received by it after it is unfolded, after it is understood, after the claim is scrutinized and opposed, is a question that is not authorized to be made the main question, whether any evidence beyond the certificates can be received. I wish to precisely call the attention to impress or to carry for a moment the impression that there has been overpast by some astuteness and some diligence the question whether you received evidence when you reject. I find myself, then, unimpeded in the inquiry, as open to me as to you, whether any evidence can be received, and if any, what beyond the certificates opened by the President of the Senate?

Mr. Evarts here reviewed the propositions submitted on Saturday by Mr. O'Conor, and continued: What, it is proposed, therefore, as a matter extraneous that it is desired to introduce, and that is claimed is open to your consideration, not that the certificate of Governor Stearns falsifies the fact he has to certify to, not that it falsifies the record that makes the basis of the fact which he has to certify to, but that the record at the time on which by law he was to base his certificate, departing from which his certificate would be false, is liable to be penetrated or surmounted by extraneous proof, showing that by matter of substance in the progress of the election, errors or frauds were made. That is to say, that somewhere in the steps between the deposit of the ballot in the boxes at the precincts and the original computation of the contents of those boxes there and transmission to the corrective canvass in the county of precincts thus canvassed at their own ballot boxes, or between the returns of the county canvass to the State canvassers, or in the action of the State canvassers in the final computation of the aggregates to ascertain the plurality of votes as for one or other candidate and so declare and so make record of and so fix the basis of the Governor whether that error was wrong on their part, fraudulent or error in law or in fact; that somewhere in the process of the election itself, from stage to stage, on the very matter of the last and question of rightful title *de jure*, there has occurred a matter of judicial consideration; for I need not say that, however simple and however limited the step to be taken beyond the record of the State canvass to serve the needs and to accomplish the justice as opposed by the learned counsel for the objectors against the Hayes certificates, the principle upon which it is offered—if the occasion required it, if justice required, if the power of this commission tolerated it, would carry it to whatever point this correction or this evisceration of the final canvass to its foundations might at once, therefore, relieved from any discussions of practical in this case, except so far as illustration of argument may make it useful for the con of any consideration, I say, whether a Governor's certificate could be attacked as itself being not a Governor's certificate, but a forgery. That is to say, being behind a Governor's certificate, that is coming in front of a Governor's certificate and breaking it down as no Governor's certificate. That the certificate of Governor Stearns was in accordance with the act of 1792 was not questioned; nor was it proposed on the other side to show that the facts as certified did not exist by any intrinsic evidence.

It was further proposed to introduce evidence to show that Humphreys was a United States officer. This was a matter of surprise, for it was matter of discussion at a meeting of the canvassing board of Florida, to read the testimony of umphreys that he had resigned ten ys before the election, his resignation had en accepted, and the duties of the office scharged by the Collector of the Port of Pensacola. There is a consideration in is case of whether the Houses of Congress, the matter of the count, or the President of the Senate, if he have the authority, at a time of their meeting for the constitutional duty of opening and counting the tes, has any powers accorded by law for the intervention of proof. Whatever may thought on the question of whether this bject of disqualification of this nature s proper for scrutiny of the votes be counted, and however proper night have been for the acts of Congress ovide for the production of proof in t transaction, and for the manner in ich it might be addressed and considered, re is no act of Congress on the subject, our proposition is that at that stage of transaction of the election, Congress, two Houses and President of the Senate cannot entertain that subject of proof; t the process must go on of and that that disqualified or has passed the observation of voters he State, passed the observation of any inel or guards that may have been proin in law for excluding from actual tion or for annulling the act thereof; if this disqualification should be le to appear, that when these are overand the votes stand on presentation authentication of the Constitution, ch is the certificate of the electors themes, and on the act of Congress, it must d unchallenged and unimpeachable e.

is tribunal cannot receive evidence in tion to certificates of the nature of that is offered; that the evidence that beyond the State's record of its elecwhich has been certified by the Gov- as resulting in the appointment of proposition, and on which sufficiently ts, is that there is a judicial inquiry the very matter of *right*, the title to , for it accepts as its function the ence of the fact, upon the certificates, ecorded title of the electors, and proc- then to inquire as *inter partes* and or of right which of the two ectors are really elected on an honest earching investigation. It undertakes ide that is judicial, and powers for its se are attempted to be invoked in of those who support that view by cessity of the exercise of imputed r requiring adequate means. What adequate means? Adequate means at investigation in that nature of right, inquiry are plenary. There are no s judicial that are adequate for that ry that are plenary, and no ry judicial powers can be communi- under our Constitution ongress (to say nothing of powers that are judicial in nature, except to tribunals that are tribunals, that are inferior to the Su- Court, and that are filled by judges nted by the President of the United and confirmed by the Senate.) Will wyer, expert or inexpert, mention a r method of judicature, of jurispru- that involves the possession of means of reach and more complete l of powers and methods than the d a *quo warranto* for an office that earch as election? But not only is it beyond the power of Congress to transfer the powers of this law to this commission, the powers of a court of dispensary seach and efficacy, but on top of the *quo warranto* to try the title of an office, in would find a subject in regard to which the Constitution had interposed an insurmountable barrier to the constitution of a court like this. The *quo warranto* is a matter and an action of common law. It involves, as a matter of right, the introduction of a jury into its methods. No case of contested election was ever tried under the sense of the State's use of a proper tribunal without a jury; but the provision here is that in every action of a certain amount of dignity, right of trial by jury shall exist, and the verdict shall never be examined except by the rules of common law. Now can it be said that if judicial power here and judicial power originating under Congressional authority to make courts is the source of this authority claimed? These are impediments that cannot be surmounted.

I find in the act of 1877 no such purpose in the arrangement of its powers as to make this court under the Constitution. I find no appointment of these judges to this court under the powers of the Constitution. I find no means for writs and their enforcement, nor for the methods of trial that must belong to the discussion of a *quo warranto*. Now, I understand that the *proponent* of this proof lay out as the end and the limit to your inquiry and of your duties and powers, that of judicial investigation upon *quo warranto*. If you are a superior canvassing board to determine whether Governor Stearn's certificate to the effect that the electors were appointed is valid, and you are nothing but a returning board surmounting the final returning board, to see whether that certificate justify that certificate, that at once you find that it does, that the *de facto* title and possession is complete, and that nothing but a jurisdiction that consists of *de facto* title and possession can begin, can find the case for beginning the consideration of the question of whether the certificate justify that *quo warranto* suit, if it becomes subject of evidence, is matter of evidence that declares absolutely on petition of the State to the Supreme Court of the State of Florida, that the Hayes electors are in possession of the faculty, the office, or "what not it may be," and are exercising it, and they ask that an inquiry may then proceed in due course of law, bringing them in only by process on the 18th of December, long after their vote, to inquire whether that possession and that exercise as a matter of right between them and the Hayes, electors is or is not according to law and truth.

We have the Governor's certificate (and he is the very man that passed for the State on that question which furnishes the right to meet and act), that this is a list of the men that were appointed. These certificates, under the State law, form no part of the return to the President of the Senate; but when the same Governor executes under the Federal law the same duty under the same evidence, we have the certificate without the production of the precedent one. Now what are we to gather in respect to the stage of this transaction which the deposit of the Federal vote for President by the qualified voters here, as they their own vote; they are not delegates to make a vote according to the instruction of their State; they are not deputed to perform the will of any body; they are voters who exercise free choice and authority to vote or refrain from voting (of course neglect-ful duty), and the vote for whom they please; and from the moment their vote is sealed and sent forward toward the seat of government, no power in the State can touch it, arrest it, reverse it, corrupt it, retract it. Nothing is to be done except to count it, and count it as it was deposited. These electors (at the present election, 369 in number) are by the Constitution made for them qualifications dependent upon the election of the State. If the State does not act, there are no qualified electors. If the State does act, in whatever is the "be all" and the "end all" of the State's action up to the time the vote is cast is the "be all" and the "end all" of the qualification of the electors. He is then a qualified elector, depositing his vote to accomplish a purpose, and that vote is to be counted when the votes are collected. Now, it is an absolute nonentity unless in the States, unknown in the nation, that judicial inquiries can be interposed to stop political action that leads to filling a magistracy. The interest of the State is small be filled. Filling it is the exercise of a political right, the discharge of a political duty. You do not step with judicial investigation into a ballot box upon the suggestion that it has been stuffed, and *stop the election* until that *quo warranto* is finished; and then when you get to the first canvasser, stop his count from going on because it is a false count, and have the court decide, and so with the county canvassers, stop their transaction in rapid progress to the result aimed at; so with the filing of an office with a *quo warranto* there and then in the State canvass, and then here. It is an absolute novelty. The necessity of the situation produces strange results. Never before has there been a retardation of the political transaction of counting an election, and to accomplish that almost a miracle has been needed for the sun and moon have been made to stand still much longer than they were for Joshua in his conflit in Judea, and you will find that the attempt to bring the judges (I do not now speak of the judges in their official capacity) that some portion of this body occupy in the Supreme Court; but I mean judges in the nature of the function) and exercise into the working of this scheme of popular sovereignty in the political view, will make it as intolerable, will defraud and defeat it. By the nature of that intervention not the character of the particular transaction of the judges, but the government of the judges will have superseded the sovereignty of the people, and there will be no cure, no resort, but that which the Children of Israel had to, pray for a king.

Charles O'Conor followed Mr. Evarts:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Commission:

In reference to the question what elements of inquiry are within reach of this commission, the counsel, on the opposite side stand in different ground, and the issue formed between us is this: We maintain, as representing what are called the objectors, that this tribunal alone has full authority to investigate by all judicial and legal means in the power of anybody to ascertain what was the vote of Florida. On the other hand, it is claimed that this learned commission is restricted merely to the determination of what may be a just inference from the documents transmitted to the Presidential Senate from Florida, mainly reposing themselves, however, on the proposition that they are *prima facie* evidence of *facts* (without right, but only the color of it). The advocates of the Hayes electors claim that inasmuch as these individuals cast their vote when possessed of some document which gave to them the color of a claim and right to that office, and to the performance of that duty, the fact that they acted on this color and claim of right in their own motion, of their own personal will, through their own right of selection, votes, therefore are binding as the votes of Florida, completely precludes all inquiry, and that it is impossible for any one tribunal or any individual to investigate into or to determine the invalidity of their claim. This issue (thus, as I trust, not too narrowly stated) gives rise to the question, What are the powers of this commission? Those powers are distinctly and fully and briefly expressed in this admirable document [the Electoral bill,] destined to become immortal honors of those concerned in its preparation, to pass into history with the two bodies respectively. Now, it is to be noticed that each of those bodies has complete power of investigation, adequate power to take proofs, through committees or otherwise, on any matter on which it may be called to pass. Either before or after the opening of the electoral votes they can investigate, though not with the formalities of a jury, nor under the precise forms of judicial proceedings. But they can investigate, as political and legislative bodies may, all facts and circumstances that are necessary to be known in order to enlighten their judgment and to guide them to a just and righteous decision. Our construction this vests in those two bodies, by necessary implication, on such a contingency arising as is here presented, the power to do what they may be needful for the accomplishment of justice.

What is the objection to that construction? The whole argument against it resolves itself simply into a common, every-day argument of the inconvenient, the *argumentum ad inconvientiam*. Those who would seek to grasp and hold office by illegal, irregular, unlawful, fraudulent means claim that it would be inconvenient to take so much trouble as might be necessary in order to investigate and rightly determine on proofs the question of such political legality and legitimacy of their claim. The objection, you perceive, applies as much to ordinary writs of *quo warranto* in the ordinary city courts of law as it does to this inquiry, if it should take place before Congress, for no court or set of courts could even conduct, within the compass of any human lifetime, the investigation which might be necessary in the case of the election of a single officer; therefore, this *argumentum ad inconvenientiam* is as fatal to the general proceedings of courts of justice in action of *quo warranto* as it is to the proceeding here suggested.

Now, in regard to the legal question presented as to what power each House of Congress had under existing laws, and what powers consequently this commission can exercise, we say, as the learned manager for the House stated in opening this case, "that there is no technical legal limit or barrier to it, so that you exercise the same power of the Government that has always been exercised in such questions, even in the courts of the common law to which application is made to obtain a writ of *quo warranto*. You exercise the same discretion, and you can limit the inquiry (when the point arises) within those limits that are prescribed by necessity and convenience." This is our view, and I state it fully as it is in my power to state it in the brief time I am permitted to occupy the attention of your honors. We say that there is no limit to the power of investigation for the purpose of finding the facts of the case, except such a decision for public convenience and for the interests of public justice and of society at large as may result from the exercise of that discretionary authority. We are told here that we stand in the second century of this Republic's existence, in such a condition that there is no possible remedy against the most palpable fraud and forgery that can be perpetrated, or against any outrageous acts in violation of the rights of the people of the respective States and of the whole Union. We are told that there is no remedy; that Congress must sit by blindly and helplessly and permit an alien to be counted into office as President of the United States; must sit by and permit a set of votes plainly and palpably fraudulent (given by individuals not only disqualified for acting, but having been chosen by the citizens, but being themselves absolutely disqualified by the Constitution from acting in office or from casting a vote) to be counted, and must permit the usurpation contemplated to take place merely because our wise fathers (one would think that the imputation was intended as a sarcasm) had so chosen to constitute the Government which they created that injustice, however conducive, might be perpetrated in open day without the possibility of having any remedy, or of even publicly discovering or complaining of it. This, we humbly submit, cannot be the Constitution and the law. Reason forbids it. It is not to be for ever solemn, however sacred, from whatever quarter complaint may be heard, that the record, as far liable to review in some manner in some judicial or other tribunal, so that fraud and misdemeanor may be detected and punished, and may fall in the attempt to trample on the rights, not only of the individual concerned here that the Governor's certificate is not conclusive. I have not time to say much about that. It is not, I think, at all conclusive. It is only required by an act of Congress. The Governor could lie even if he would, to give. Many circumstances may prevent his giving it, and he may have given it under circumstances of duress, of malicious falsehood, without any election and to sacrifice, but may have been made to execute to his four little boys, and constitute them an electoral college, and the vote which they gave would become absolutely conclusive and infallible and irresistible on the United States who had any power to act in the premises. We claim that you have a right to investigate this matter, and to weigh all these things. First, whether the Hayes electoral vote is valid. The final decision of that question may arrive may reject either or may reject both. They are not involved in precisely the same questions, necessarily, though the questions may possibly apply, and the vote for Hayes may be pronounced bad and the vote for Tilden equally so, I have not time to discuss more fully the question as to the right of setting aside Tilden's vote in case the Hayes vote may be rejected.

In the little time left to me, I have hardly an opportunity of saying a word in regard to that which is the main reliance of the other side, and that is the doctrine of political necessity. What is that? The best definition of an officer *de facto* which I have fallen in with is that given by Lord Ellenborough, in a case of a writ of error by the corporation of Bedford, Nevel C. Nevel, in which he says, "a *de facto* officer," he says, "is one who has the reputation of being the officer he seems to be, and yet is not a good officer in point of law." Now, what is the question here contended for? That these officers having taken action in the world, and having completely exercised and perfected the function with which they appear, as it is said, to be invested, and by which, if they were duly elected, they were charged, any subsequent attempt to set it aside would be contrary to convenience and mischievous to society. Are the bank notes of a bank not bona fide because to issue them, although signed and perfect, not finished and put in the hands of its agent, valid and effectual under the principle that some person has confided in them and has received them as money, and has had the appearance of right with which the bank had improperly clothed itself? Now, we maintain that neither the public good nor the execution of men from deception, nor any rule of law, nor any principle of justice, nor any instance of pretended electors whose title, on investigation by competent authority before the votes had been opened and counted, was ascertained to be groundless. Referring to the facts of the case, what do we find? These four gentlemen sit down with a false Governor's certificate, or sham certificate from the Board of State Canvassers, in spite of their own authority certifying their acts themselves, cast four votes in a private station, put them in a packet and send it to an officer who cannot look at it until the time of a presentation for the purpose of being considered and counted. Before that time arrived at which the two Houses were assembled as a body, could have any opposition, could take effect, could get into such a condition that its preservation and maintenance would be necessary for the course of public justice or private right, that could be called a vested right, a solemn writ of *quo warranto*. It was determined that they were usurpers, that they had no right to the office, and that their acts were void. Is there any such principle as that the officials put in by actual action of the usurper, and I want no sharp practice upon me by the Senate, and I want no sharp practice upon me by [excitedly]. If the committee does not protect me, I will protect myself.

Chairman—Answer the question. Doyon mean by that answer which you gave a while ago that the election in Louisiana was true, or not? A.—I mean that the result of the Presidential election hinged upon Louisiana and Florida and South Carolina?

Q.—Which others? A.—Florida is one, sir, and that is three votes that Governor Stearns has certified to.

Q.—Then, when you said in this letter "Our duties as returning officers have augmented to the magnitude of the interests of the whole nation and of the whole world," you meant the nation? did you mean this election in this way? Why did you speak of your duties as the nation in this letter? A.—That I would not approve anything that I conceived to be illegal or improper.

Q.—Had any such thing been proposed? A. I anticipated it, sir.

Q.—Never mind anticipating; had any such thing been proposed? A.—By the Honorable Duncan F. Kenner, a very wealthy gentleman in the State of Louisiana.

Q.—What did he propose? A.—He proposed to give me $200,000 to change the vote for Mr. Tilden. He made the proposition in his own office, on Sunday, the 19th of November, between ten and eleven o'clock in the morning.

A.—After the board had began to canvass? A.—The board didn't begin to canvass until the 20th; this was the 19th.

Q.—It was in consequence of that offer that you went to New Orleans? A.—I went to New Orleans when Mr. Lawrence said: I have no objection to the testimony, so far as we have it, being printed." Now, gentlemen of the committee, I shall object to general printing until we have all of the testimony. I wish to say this: We are a committee to inquire into the powers and privileges of the House, and I think it might have been competent upon the powers and privileges of the committee. Here is a printed stenographer's report of the testimony taken by this committee in the Florida case, and printed by Judd & Detweiler, printers to the city. I don't want to say that no member or officer of this committee has a right to give any testimony to outsiders for publication, but doing so is a gross and palpable violation of the rules governing the committee.

Mr. Field—Why, you have given access to members of the press to our meetings, have you not?

Mr. Burchard—Yes, to report what they hear.

Mr. Field—Well, can't they report every word if they see fit?

Mr. Lawrence—Does anybody know how this pamphlet came printed?

Mr. Field—Yes, I suppose they know.

Chairman—Proceed with the examination.

Mr. Field—Well, don't answer any more than my question.

Chairman—Answer the question. Witness—I will answer the question, but I must answer my question in my own way.

Chairman—Yes, that is the kind of style we want.

Mr. Field—Have you stated that you did not know what parties had carried the State at last fall you actually made the returns? A.—But I—

Q.—Do you or do you not? A.—I do not know what parties had carried the State at last until you actually made the returns? A.—But I—

Q.—Do you or do you not? A.—I do not, sir.

Mr. Field—Well, don't answer any more than my question.

Chairman—Answer the question. Witness—I will answer the question, but I must answer my question in my own way.

Chairman—Yes, that is the kind of style we want.

Mr. Field—Have you stated that you did not know what parties had carried the State at last fall

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1877.

FIELD has gone to grass.

TILDEN'S PICKETT-guard has been driven in.

MADDOX should change his name to *Mendax*. His testimony broke of its own weight as it fell.

THE key to the secret of the triumph of "TILDEN and reform" in Mississippi: a duplicate ballot-box key.

THE Democrats of the House talk buntbravely enough, but they are beginning to act mightily as though they felt crape.

SINCE the time of TITUS OATES, never has the business of inventing Democratic lies been so common as it is now, and as it has been for the last three months.

IT IS suggested in Kentucky that the natural principle which gives blue glass such a superior effect in its influences upon all living things placed under it, applies with equal force to Blue Grass.

OUR Democratic contemporary has an article on "The Louisiana Rascality," in which, singular to state, none of the prime rascals—Democrats—are denounced. This resembles the play of *Hamlet* with the Prince of Denmark left out.

CHARLES O'CONOR said, in that letter of his which was published a short time since, that the republic of WASHINGTON died when MCDOWELL made his advance upon Richmond. And yet he wants to make TILDEN President of that dead republic.

THE Democratic House of Representatives, at Washington, refused, by a very decisive vote, to reduce the pay of Congressmen ten per cent. The Presidential election being over there is no longer any necessity for pretending to be in favor of "reform."

THE various movements now on foot in different States for the enactment of usury laws, have rather a droll look in view of the fact that money is so abundant as to be a drug, and is to be obtained with ease by all who can afford sound security for its repayment.

THE number of clerical quarrels at present being waged in this country is perfectly astonishing. Nothing can disprove Christianity, but if anything could it would be the snarlings and snappings of people who wear white neckcloths and preach from the text, "Let brotherly love continue."

RANDALL'S action in appointing two Democratic tellers in the House to count the electoral vote is supposed to indicate a purpose on the part of the House not to accept the decision of the commission as a finality if it should go against the Democratic candidates. In that event, it is surmised, the Democratic tellers will assume the responsibility of declaring TILDEN elected. Let them try it.

THE new ecclesiastical revolution between the English Government and the ritualists in the Established Church, resulting from the prosecution and imprisonment of one of their number—Rev. MR. TOOTH—has become so fierce that it threatens to end either in the entire suppression of ritualism, or in the entire separation of church and State. The latter result is the most probable.

THE foreign commerce of New York, last week, was: Merchandise imports, $6,499,787; produce exports, $5,535,160, and specie exports $228,386. The total imports since January 1, this year, were $29,592,279, against $34,274,856 for the corresponding period in 1876; the total exports of produce were $29,348,662, against $24,940,937 last year, and the total exports of specie were $1,206,703, against $2,363,836 in 1876.

A CORRESPONDENT who desires to know the proper name of the new machine that is grinding at Washington, is respectfully informed that it has several designations, from which he can select his choice. Some call it "The Electoral Tribunal," others "The Electoral Commission," yet others "The Electoral College Commission," and still others "*The* Tribunal," as if it were the only tribunal on earth. In history, most probably, it will be known as the "The Humbug Commission."

THE ballot box, which is the wand of our fate, may wave our destruction yet, by intimidation of voters, by violence and by debasement of the box by fraud. The resolutions of the Democratic President of the Hinds county, Mississippi, Board of Registers, before the Senate committee, touching the infamous methods employed by his party to secure a Democratic victory at the last election in that State, are calculated to make thoughtful men stand aghast. A beautiful spectacle is that of TILDEN standing in the market place with the skin of the stolen sheep upon his back.

THE grandest manifestation of pure "cheek" ever witnessed in this or any other country was the call upon President GRANT made by CHARLES O'CONOR, of New York, on Saturday last. He shook hands, as a mark of personal respect, without blanching or change of countenance, with the man whom, in a letter published only a few weeks since, he characterized as "the drunken Democrat whom the Republicans picked out of a Galena gutter in 1868." The advantage of the interview was certainly on the side of the President, who showed more than the usual magnanimity in consenting to receive a visit from a man who had so lately and so villainously defamed him.

A PROPOSITION is mooted to explore Arctic America by means of the establishment of permanent stations of observation, akin to that in operation on Mount Washington, New Hampshire, a system recently recommended in this country as well as in Europe. It is not improbable that important data as to the introduction of man on this continent might be brought to light by this means. Indeed, the establishment of an international scientific service for the observation of astronomical, meteorological, geological and zoological phenomena, should commend itself to all the more civilized powers. The different governments established by the white races should contribute their quota of the expenses for the establishment and maintenance of posts of observation in different localities over the globe, to be decided upon by commissions of specialists. In time of war such posts should be held neutral, as well as their service, under an international flag and protected by the operation of international law. In the case of the Arctic regions, our own country, Great Britain, Russia and Scandinavia are the most interested from their geographical position; yet other powers are also directly interested in the solution of the different problems offered through the knowledge of those parts of the earth's surface. A definite settlement of the disputed question of the origin of man would greatly advance our material interests as a species by giving us a mental habit in accordance with the facts in the case. The prospect alone of arriving at a solution of this important question should prompt concerted action, either by a scientific service or such other means as experience might prefer.

"THE BALANCE OF TRADE."

There is a class of political philosophers in this country who contend that the nation which sells more than it buys is not necessarily prosperous, and that nations, when properous, always buy more than they sell. They cite DANIEL WEBSTER as an authority for this view and quote from one of his speeches to sustain it. The logic which this idea evolves is of that kind which argues the nose off a man's face and proves that two and two make five.

The apothegms of Poor Richard, who was a pretty fair political economist, declare that always taking out of the meal tub and never putting in, soon comes to the bottom; and a legitimate deduction from this truth is that if you take out more meal from the tub than you put in, you will, in the end, exhaust the supply. It is contrary, therefore, to plain reason to say that a nation that buys more than it sells is more prosperous than a nation that sells more than it buys.

It is admissible that nations which seem to be on the high tide of prosperity may, as a general rule, buy more than they sell; and also that nations which seem, for the time being, to be under a cloud of adversity and business depression, may, at the same time, sell more than they buy; but it by no means follows that the prosperity, in the one case, results from an adverse balance of trade, nor that the business depression, in the other case, is caused by a favorable balance of trade. We buy more than we sell, in the first instance, because our apparent prosperity leads us into extravagance and recklessness of expenditures; and we sell more than we buy, in the other instance, because commercial adversity leads us into economy and careful purchasing. The extravagance leads, eventually, to business depression because we have bought beyond our ability to pay; and the economy that follows leads to a business revival through the influx of means which the balance of trade brings us. It is an adverse balance of trade that always precipitates a crisis in business affairs, and a favorable balance that leads us out of depression, gradually, into a more healthy commercial condition.

It is also to be borne in mind that mere trade statistics do not always show the real condition of commercial affairs. The tables of exports and imports for the current year do not show the amount of money we have borrowed abroad, nor the amount of interest we are constantly remitting to our foreign creditors on our foreign debt. We may sell a hundred millions more produce, in a year, than will pay for the foreign merchandise we buy, but it may take every cent of the surplus and more to pay the interest on our debt; and, on the other hand, we may buy a hundred millions more in a year, of foreign goods, than we have of our own produce to export in payment for them; but we may, if the times be flush, borrow a hundred millions abroad, and so be able, with apparent ease, to pay the difference; but the country is just that much the worse off.

That the country is much safer in having the balance of trade in her favor, and that she will, by its means, be able to recover her wonted activity, is, in our judgment, a fact beyond question. DANIEL WEBSTER to the contrary notwithstanding. On this point the Boston *Advertiser* well says:

> From 1865 to 1873 we were constantly borrowing money from England, and in large amounts, and yet, in spite of this fact, we were constantly sending great sums in gold to England. When the panic came, we opened our eyes to the truth that we had been living on our creditors—buying money and spending it in unprofitable enterprises. Our heavy purchases had been stimulated by our apparent prosperity, but we were all the time growing poorer.

The changed condition of our foreign trade shows that the country at large is doing what any reasonable and honorable man would do under similar circumstances if he had the power. We are working hard to produce salable goods, we get along with the consumption of as little as we can, we sell the surplus, we buy no more than is absolutely necessary. Thus we are earning money and saving it, or paying our debts with it. The present favorable "balance of trade" will, in time, bring us back to wealth, and we shall then be able to spend more.

THE CITY ELECTION.

General MOORHEAD yesterday gave the "Citizens'" movement a heavy blow by declining the nomination to the Mayoralty tendered to him by it. General MOORHEAD is too good a Republican as well as too good a citizen to lend himself to such a movement. He believes in his party as the most reliable agency for the purposes of true and lasting "reform," and his distrust of the Democracy keeps even pace with his devotion to Republicanism. Mr. BIGGER also, we are told, declines the questionable honor offered to him; so that two-thirds of the movement has come to naught.

Colonel MULBERRY SELLERS, however, holds on to his nomination, and is going to stick to it. He was the only Democrat put on the ticket; and as the capture of the treasury was the objective point of the whole scheme, he is determined that, if "there's millions in it," he will have the benefit of it. He urges that he is as good a Democrat as is to be found in the city, and if there is any merit in that fact, he may certainly be permitted to plead it.

The *Post*, we notice in this connection, is "forensic" the citizens' movement, and wants a clean Democratic nomination. "The maintenance of the *Democratic organization*" it holds "*to be more important and involving greater results than any mere temporary reform in the, administration of municipal affairs.* One concerns a locality—the other the nation and its people." This is a frank acknowledgment that all its blathering professions of devotion to "retrenchment and reform" are mere bosh. "The Democratic organization" is above and beyond all such questions as "mere temporary reform," and superior to them in all respects. These professions of retrenchment and reform may do very well to gull Republicans with and keep up a semblance of sincerity; but it is of much more importance to maintain the Democratic organization than even to delude the public with lying professions. The *Post* therefore wants "the Democratic organization" of this city to go ahead and nominate a ticket that will stick, and not melt away, as the citizens' ticket has done, like a stick of candy in an urchin's mouth. Let them, it says, call it a "Citizens'" ticket, if they like, and put weak-kneed Republicans on it, if they will; but let the ticket be put forward by "the Democratic organization," so that it may be maintained intact, whatever else may be the result. To show that we do not misrepresent the *Post* we quote:

> But the existing condition of affairs makes a decided change in the duty of the Democrats. They must assemble in convention at the earliest possible day, and put in nomination a ticket. Interested equally with the "citizens" in low taxation, economy and honest and capable men in office, they should present a ticket, and it need not necessarily be strictly partisan, that will win the support of the dissatisfied Republicans active in nominating General Moorhead. There is no time to wait for further action by the gentlemen of the Chamber of Commerce. Their next venture may prove as futile as the one set afloat last week.

By all means let the Democrats, as a party and as an organization, put forth their ticket; and by all means, also, let Republicans take time to pause and consider whether they are in their proper position in promoting the success of "the Democratic organization." The maintenance of this organization, the *Post* admits, is the end aimed at, and *not* "retrenchment and reform." These latter are merely subordinate elements, and are relied on by the *Post*, not as realities in themselves, but as mere subordinate questions which may be used to promote the success of the "Democratic organization."

THE fellow PICKETT, whom FIELD, TILDEN'S lawyer, has procured to help the conspiracy against the Louisiana Returning Board, has a million on the brain. The Boston *Traveller* has unearthed from its files of June 6, 1870, the following statement, in connection with the exposure of a certain piece of rascality practiced by him in that year:

> It appears that as early as September last, Mr. Rinse, the financial agent of Cuba in Washington, entered into a written contract with A. B. Taylor, through his attorney, ex-rebel General Pickett, in the sum of one million dollars in Cuban bonds, to obtain the recognition of belligerent rights for Cuba by the Government of the United States.
>
> When it is borne in mind that a considerable part of this money was traced to certain persons, disbursed through the medium of PICKETT and his "law partner," and that only a few days ago this same PICKETT testified to his part in the plot to buy the Louisiana electoral vote for TILDEN for the same magical sum of one million dollars, it will be seen at once what a pretty instrument he is with which to promote the chances of the great Tichborne Presidential claimant.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Is a life insurance panic impending?

The latest decorative luxury is found in bronze gilt doors for drawing rooms.

All compromise is in the nature of abandoning absolute right for plausible wrong.

Wonders never cease. A New Yorker has been found guilty of libeling an alderman.

Arizona is trying to attact immigration by enacting the easiest divorce laws in the Union.

February is a warm hearted, but at the same time the dirtiest, little brat that ever ran out of doors.

The extreme hardness of the water, this winter, has proved highly favorable to the strength of the milk.

Offenbach's book on our country is a sort of a mixture of German nightmare and French fireworks.

There is not a woman in the Connecticut State prison. There ought not to be a woman in any State prison.

The career of the deadly Spitz, as a dog of fashion, is ended. Noodledum spits the hydrophobiac cur out of its mouth.

Bad. Ninety-eight cases of failure of bridges or trestles under moving trains have occured in this country within four years.

The venerable Josiah Quincy is trying to start building and loan organizations in Massachussetts like those in Philadelphia.

Foaming out his own shame. Jeff. Davis has had to come down to hard work, and he is to put it in in writing a history of himself.

Two New York sweeps had a battle a few days ago on a roof. "Jack fell down and broke his crown and Jim came tumbling after."

Archæologists have discovered an inscription in the Catacombs of Rome which proves conclusively that St. Peter was really in that city.

Hats with blue glass crowns are the latest invention. The blue glass will start the hair on the smoothest and emptiest of skulls within forty-eight hours.

The latest bit of snobbery is a looking glass in the outside panel of milady's coath. She will next have a platform built for the top on which to exhibit all the family plated ware.

"Hungry journalists," says a San Francisco paper, "are too plentiful now by an overwhelming majority. Too many young men just escaped from the colleges desire to instruct the masses."

The Japanese are rapidly acquiring our ways. Some of their custom house officials recently undertook to open a case of dynamite with a hammer and chisel. A new building will be erected on the site of the old one.

Physicians in various cities report an unusual number of cases of insanity resulting from business trouble. Many of the cases are incurable, and there has been a rapid increase of their number in the last six months.

An English firm have recently commenced the manufacture of "homogencous iron." It is produced from ordinary Cleveland pig metal, and it is said that rails made of the new metal will bear a strain equal to that of steel rails.

The poisoned arrow is one of the most effective bits of machinery in an Indian romance, but now comes Major Powell, the Indian explorer, who asserts, with an alarming degree of positiveness, that poisoned arrows were never used by American Indians.

Captain Howgate's bill to establish a colony in the Polar regions for exploration has been favorably reported by the Committee on Naval Affairs and the project has received the indorsement of many prominent members of both branches of Congress.

In New York the predictions of a reduction in rents grow in volume as well as in number. Prominent real estate agents seem to look forward to a general reduction of not less than ten per cent., and some of them to a fall of from fifteen to twenty-five per cent.

The exorbitance of the terminal charges for handing grain in Chicago is again under discussion, now that the trade is not so brisk. The elevator men in this matter are something like the chap whose roof leaked; when it was dry it didn't need fixing, and when it rained he couldn't do it.

Mr. Crossley, M. P., the largest carpet manufacturer in England, has failed. His embarrassments are largely due to imprudent investments in mining enterprises of that kind, in other countries besides England. Several establishments in the United States are indebted to him for their origin.

The latest invention is an automatic signel buoy, which promises to be of great service to the shipping of the world. Anchored on exposed reefs and ledges, it warns off the approaching vessel by ceaselessly blowing a shrill whistle which is automatically operated by the rise and fall of the waves.

The toad, ugly and venomous, wears yet a jewel in his head; and so did a London loafer after assaulting a gentleman who gave him a tremendous blow on the cheek. The surgeon on examination found a hard lump which proved to be a diamond that had come from the ring of the man who struck him.

Vegetable electricity. A botanical traveler in Nicaragua describes through the columns of a Belgian horticultural publication a species of phytolacca which is in the vegetable world the counterpart of the gymnotus, or electric eel. On attempting to gather a branch of this plant, the hand feels a shock as if from an electrical machine; and a compass is sensibly affected by proximity to the plant, the needle being agitated in proportion to its nearness to the shrub, taking on a rapid gyratory movement when the instrument is placed in the middle of the bush.

PERSONAL.

Kate Field has quit the stage and is writing on the London *Examiner*.

That the Pope does not spend his money foolishly is evidently from the fact that he has $32,000,000 to his credit in the Bank of Italy.

Senator Thurman is a great sufferer from neuralgia. For ten days he has scarcely slept at night, or been free from pain an hour in the day.

John Bull, through the agency of Queen Victoria, has sent an autograph letter to one of the importers expressing her imperial and royal satisfaction with the condition and favor of the sample of American meat sent her.

Lotharios intending to run away with other gentlemen's wives should first count the cost. A lady whose flight surprised London society about a year and a half ago has since that time run up a milliner's bill of £4,000.

Mrs. Eliza Greenwood, formerly a vivandier of the British army of 1815, was the other day dispossessed of her rooms in Jersey City, and sent to the almshouse. She fought beside her husband at the battle of Waterloo until he fell riddled by French bullets.

The Grand Duke Alexis is going to visit Poughkeepsie for the purpose of personally inspecting ice yachting in all its bearings, with a view of introducing patterns of American ice yachts in Russian rivers, not only for amusement, but also for modes of conveyance.

Drs. Willard Parker, of New York, and Stimson, of Philadelphia, have done what Nelaton and other European physicans refused to attempt, in removing from the face and neck of John Stevens, a young Hoboken millionaire, a birth-mark of a dark brown color and covered with hair.

Madame Mitchell, of Chicago, the other night found three burglars in her apartment. One of them seized her, gagged her and threw her on her bed, at the same time demanding her diamond ear-rings and gold watch and chain. While they were rummaging the rest of the room, the lady thought of a pistol lying under the pillow, and, drawing it, fired three shots in quick succession. The robbers fled, and a few days after the mother of Dave Raggio, a famous cracksman, just out of the penitentiary, reported his death to the police from a pistol-shot. Sure enough, Dave was dead, from his adventure in Mrs. Mitchell's chamber.

PENNSYLVANIA OIL REGIONS.

High Prices Promised but Not Realized—Little Oil Being Sold—The Bullion Run Field—Accident, &c., &c.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

PARKER, February 3, 1877.

The very high prices which producers were promised five months ago, when the month of January should arrive, have not been realized. On the 30th of August an organ of the ring published an article in reference to stocks which concluded as follows:

"This will bring the stocks on the first of January down to a mere nominal figure, not sufficient to supply the various channels of trade."

Unfortunately, however, this "nominal figure" ranges at two and a half million barrels, and the daily average production at 26,000 barrels; hence with but virtually one buyer in the market, producers fail to receive the five dollars a barrel for their production which they were so very lavishly promised, if they would only hold on to their oil for that price.

Any producers who may have been unwise enough to take this advice, have now time enough to reflect on their folly, in supposing that by holding for artificial price they could bid defiance to the inevitable commercial law of supply and demand. Some more prudent, on the other hand, sold their production, in advance, at $3 50 and over (by the week), knowing that they were realizing a handsome margin on their investment, and have the satisfaction, to-day, of feeling that they are netting fifty cents more than those who are selling their production at present prices.

There is but very little production being sold at present, as many producers who need ready money are hypothecating their certificates, to raise the necessary funds for current expenses. They realize the fact that, with the opening of the spring export trade, there will undoubtedly be a decided advance in prices, and that the effect of throwing their oil upon the market in its present uncertain and somewhat depressed condition, would be to still further depreciate their staple.

It is quite a significant fact, however, that while shipment is merely nominal, in the open market, an average of 18,541 barrels was shipped from the lower oil region alone last month, which is indicative of there being a purchaser at the present prices, between which and refined a very large margin exists.

No doubt the condition of the Bullion run territory has something to do with the unsettled condition of the market. In that locality there are at present five farms on which are fifteen producing wells, with an aggregate yield of over 1,200 barrels a day. Of these the Emmerson & Brownson well, on the Taylor farm, reported in the special correspondence of the COMMERCIAL while drilling in the sand, is doing in the neighborhood of 300 barrels daily. On the Sutton farm, a short distance south, but nearly on a 22° line, the Nesbitt well No. 1 is doing about 130 barrels a day, the Nesbitt No. 2 in the neighborhood of 375 barrels, and the Phillips No. 2 about 160 barrels daily. There are at present ten drilling wells and five rig up or in process of building in this vicinity.

Of course it is not surprising that this territory should have a somewhat depressing effect on a market already predisposed to a downward tendency, in the absence of transactions of any account at the seaboard and with purchases of shipment made elsewhere than on the open market.

The Nesbitt No. 2, on the Sutton farm, although above, commenced flowing on Tuesday at the rate of between four and five hundred barrels a day, with the tools still in the hole.

On the Davis farm, adjoining the Sutton farm on the west, Phillips Brothers have two new wells drilling in the sand. They are already about eighteen feet in the stratum, with indications decidedly favorable for their proving to be dry holes.

Tack Brothers have also a new well drilling in the sand, on the Taylor farm, the indications being favorable for a pumper of modest production.

Galloway & Co. have also a new well in the sand, on the Sutton farm, adjoining the Bearinger and Kenderdell tracts, with quite favorable indications.

An accident occurred on Sunday at the Mehaffy drilling well, on the Stevenson farm. About noon they struck the sand, when the well immediately commenced to flow, and the gas ignited with a terrible explosion, blowing the rig to atoms. Three of the employes of the well were badly burned by the explosion, two of them being very seriously injured.

Mrs. Robert Patton, the lady who was injured by the explosion of the natural gas in the cellar of her residence at Fairview, on Monday, and reported dying in a special to the COMMERCIAL of Tuesday, died from the effect of her injuries yesterday.

By a very remarkable coincidence, of course, a verbatim copy of the special in the COMMERCIAL appeared on the evening of the same day in the Allegheny *Mail*, as an account given by Mr. Brill, the druggist, who had just returned from Butler county.

The Allegheny river commenced to break up yesterday afternoon about five o'clock, and a large number of spectators gathered on the banks of the stream to witness the exciting spectacle. Large floes of ice broke up from the solid mass, and as they floated down the river rolled over and over and ground against the sides of adjacent masses in their course. A dense fog prevailed at the time and obscured the interesting scene, but in about half an hour the ice gorged at the mouth of Bear creek. The river continued to rise steadily, and about ten o'clock at night the gorge broke loose and immense quantities of ice came down from above the bridge. Large floes would strike the guards of the massive stone piers with a dull thud, and then tumble over and over, crashing onto other large pieces which were hurrying by on the surface of the swollen current. Although a heavy fog hung over the river, a large crowd gathered on the bridge with lanterns, peering through the darkness at the turbid waters below. The river is much lower than it was last night.

This evening a dispatch from Bullion run states that the sand in Tack Brothers' well, on the Taylor farm, is of excellent quality with indications of a good well.

The Bullion run Galloway well, on the Sutton farm, has been removed and drilling will be resumed on Monday.

DOT.

The Count Begun.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Well, the count has begun, and take it all in all, it does not look as if the Democracy had gained much by forcing this departure from established usuages. From the stand made on Florida, and the wheelbarrow load of documents planted on this outpost, it must be their strong point, and one little grain of nitro-glycerine thrown into them, by Mr. Kasson, must blow the whole thing to the winds. "*Ex post facto*" disposes of it all; and poor Florida will, no doubt, be pointed out in the future by her suffering sisters of the Confederacy, as a terrible example of the danger or delay.

If ever there was a case showing that "procrastination is the thief of time" that is the Democratic count of the returns of the Florida election; and, from her terrible example, even Bourbon Democrats will learn that it is a fatal mistake to postpone making election laws until after the election

They look gloomy; and, evidently, do wish that that Florida Legislature had done its work a few months sooner, and that the Constitution of the State had been revised last year, so as to favor the election of Mr. Tilden. It is a pity things had not been fixed in time, for the only hope now is to bury the merits of the case in words and documents, of which there shall literally be no end.

Words, a multitude of words, a Watterson's army of illegible documents, are the only hope for friend Tilden; and his attorney, Dudley Field, seems to be a very capacious fountain of nouns, verbs and their connecting links.

His unabreviated "brief" of objections was a speaking contrast to the short, terse papers offered by Mr. Sargent on the other side; but Mr. Field will hold on to his case; for, while the upper part of his head shows large intellectual endowments, his jaws give a strong hint of bull dog tenacity.

It was impressive to see the Senators file in, two and two, while the House arose and stood to receive them; and the whole occasion was marked with a dignity and decorum quite unusual in the present House. Twice there was silence in the hall for as much as two minutes, broken only by the voice of the person whose business it was to speak.

During those two intervals no one was talking aloud except the clerk, who was reading. Even the reporters stopped talking, and the folks at the back of the hall stood still. I cannot remember the crisis which produced this surprising result, for I was so astonished that I could not attend to anything but this attention.

Most of the time things went on in the usual free and easy fashion. Every body talked to every body in the ordinary tones of conversation, and only experts heard the proceedings. After the Senate with drew there was a perfect babel and the Speaker hammered away like a smart carpenter driving nails.

The Democrats wanted to decide that Florida question then and there! Republicans wanted time. One suggested that as the case had been referred to the commission, it would be well to leave it there, but he was so promptly and effectually snubbed that he will be apt to keep quiet in future.

So it seems that the House is going to settle the Florida election, and the Senate if going to settle the Florida election, and the commission will settle the Florida election! The first will settle it in the south end of the building, the second in the north end and the third in the middle, so that it ought to be pretty well settled.

It reminds me of a nest of eggs I once saw with three hens sitting on it; but in that case the result was seventeen rotten eggs and never a chick! Let us hope that these three august bodies may not have a like experience in this their labor in kind.

JANE GREY SWISSHELM.

NASBY steps forward now with his plan for the settlement of the Presidential dispute. Nothing but its late appearance could have prevented its adoption. He suggests that a representative Republican and a representative Democrat decide the question by a game of seven-up, and adds: "I wood sejest ez the representative Republikin for this purpose Mr. Frelinhuysen, of Noo Jersey. For the representative Dimocrat their ain't no need for my namin' him at all. The entire Dimocrisy in one voice would exclaim 'John Morrissey.' Spoze it wuz agreed to have it seven-up, and the best two in three. Think uv these reports from Assoshiated Press: 'The Presidenshal games!—Frelinhuysen two!—Morrissey one!—Thanksgivin' in the Churches!—The Freedmen Jubilant! Later!—Morrissey turns Jack and makes High, Low and Game!—End uv the First Game—Morrissey shows out on high and low! Frelinhuysen accuses him uv cheatin'!—A day of fastin' ordered, and the gin mills illuminate!' Then the second game: 'The first game conceded to Morrissey—Gold rises to 12!—The manufacturers dishearted!—The South Jubilant!—Frelinhuysen deals!—Morrissey begs!—Frelinhuysen gives him one, and Morrissey claims a misdeal, which the umpire allows! Morrissey makes four! The niggers discurridged and the South Jubilant! Second hand—Frelinhuysen makes high and low, and Morrissey jack and game!—Morrissey one pint to go and his deal! The Presidenshal question settled!—Morrissey turns jack, winnin the rub, and electin, Tilden and Reform!—Congratulatory despatch from the President-elect!—Chagrin of the Republikings!—Morrissey serenaded!—I simply did my dooty!' Morrissey to be Secretary of the Treasury!"

The *Economist* thinks that drygoods have "shrunk" as much as they possibly can. So do we, judging from the ladies' dresses.

S. M. Pettengill & Co.,
Advertising Agents,
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They invite such from any parties who contemplate advertising in any way or for any amount.

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we have just opened, in all the different and various qualities, lowest to very finest grades, in Wool, All Wool and Silk Warp, and offered at quite a reduction in prices from former goods.
Black Dress Silks.
And to another opening to-day of Black and Colored Dress Silks, offered at prices making them Special Good Bargains.
☞ In previous lots of these goods having been so highly appreciated and proven such a success, we are pleased to announce in our new Silks, if anyting, still better value.
New Suitings, &c.
We have the following additional bargains now on our counters, which are all New Goods lately opened.
At 10c, Plain and Plaid Knickerbocker Suitings.
At 8½c and 10c, new Poplin and Wool Plaid Suitings.
At 12 1-2 Cents,
New Styles Fresh Dress Goods.
At 22 and 25c, new Basket Suitings, formerly 37½ and 50c.
At 15c, Wool Striped Oversuitings.
Serges and Brocades.
Also, a new line, opened to-day, in Single and Double Serges, All Wool Striped Satteens, All Wool Striped Brocades, Striped and Plain Cashmere Suitings, together with new novelties in French, English and American Dress Fabrics of new designs, at extremely
Low Prices!
Extra good bargains in Black Alpacas and Mohairs, of new and superior makes.
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The PITTSBURGH DAILY COMMERCIAL, from and after the 1st of January, 1877, will be mailed to subscribers, in the United States, at EIGHT DOLLARS per annum, postage prepaid. The paper, which has heretofore so freely found its way to the business office of the Banker, the Merchant and the Manufacturer, and has so firmly maintained its character as a medium for the dissemination of reliable information concerning Financial and Commercial affairs, will commend itself more largely to all classes of traders, now that the price has been so materially reduced. It is not only the purpose of the management to keep the Business Departments of the COMMERCIAL fully up to the standard of past years, but to improve them, from time to time, by introducing such new features as the necessities of trade and a proper regard for the interests of the patrons may require.
IN POLITICS
The COMMERCIAL will endeavor to pursue the same course which has characterized it in past years. It will support Republican principles, always exercising the right to freely criticise party measures which do not meet its approval, and to condemn the acts of party friends when those acts do not comport with its sense of right and justice. It will remain faithful to the special duties and convictions upon which the Republican party was based, and will espouse the cause of no clique or faction. The grave questions which now agitate the country, and which must in due time reach a proper and (as we believe) peaceful solution, will be full of interest, and the general news, and will be calmly and dispassionately, but firmly, discussed, in all their bearings.
THE NEWS DEPARTMENTS
Will be fully up to the demands of the reading public. In addition to the comprehensive and accurate reports of the Associated Press, giving the news from all parts of the world, arrangements have been made for Special Telegraphic, Local and Mail Correspondence from the National and State Capitals, and from other important centers.
A Department devoted to the publication of Local News will be found a complete daily history of the city and its environs, gathered by a corps of careful writers and set forth in attractive style.
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Will, as heretofore, receive careful attention. Full telegraphic reports of the State of Business, with Prices Current, will be received daily from the Trade Centers of the country and Europe. The Pittsburgh Market, in all its branches, will be reported fully and accurately. The commercial journal of the COMMERCIAL stands second to no paper in the country.
The Financial Department will give daily the ruling rates for money and the prices of Stocks and Bonds at all the great trading points, with much interesting financial matter.
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FINANCE AND TRADE.

MONDAY EVENING, February 5, 1877.

The matter of chief interest among bankers to-day was the President's message on the question of specie resumption. As there is nothing new in the local financial situation to talk about, we turned to the prominent resumption topic and asked for the opinions upon it of a number of our leading capitalists. As requested, we omit names, and give only the opinions taken.

The first of these opinions runs about as follows: The President relies too much upon the favorable balance of trade which we now enjoy. It seems to be assumed that that balance is to be maintained, and if it should, there is a fair prospect for arriving at the happy conclusion of our monetary troubles which the President aims at, but there is no satisfactory proof that it will be maintained. We import less now than previously, for the very good reason that we have less money to spare now, but let prosperous times return and we shall soon find the imports growing into former proportions. We ought not to take credit to ourselves for what came in spite of us, and which will go away when we are able to indulge in foreign luxuries of taste and dress.

In the next place, the President's plan for funding the debt in bonds would work just as the law to resume in 1879 has, viz: The bonds would be at a premium, and the holders of greenbacks would turn them into bonds, thus reducing the currency circulation to a point below the actual business wants of the country, the result of which would be a tightness of times that we have already enough of. As we approach the period set by law for resumption we see that the banks have been converting their circulation into bonds at the rate of thousands a week. This converting process will be hastened by the President's plan.

The end of the opinion was that Congress had better let the finance of the country alone, severely alone. Let the natural laws of supply and demand determine the problem of resumption.

Calling at another bank, the question was asked: Would the four per cent. bonds which the President recommends the issuance of to strengthen the Treasury for final resumption and to secure an excess of coin over demand, pending the experiment of a return to specie payment, be taken up as at par with gold? The answer was that they would be if given time enough to run. Our long bonds command the highest figures in the market. Let these proposed four per cent. bonds run forty years, and they would soon find buyers. So far this opinion coincides with that of the President, but there it ends, as the gentleman in question is opposed to legislation on the subject. The natural course of things has brought gold and paper nearly to a level; let the natural course of things bring them entirely to it, as it will do.

The substance of the third opinion is: Let us have no funding of the debt. Let it stay as it is. The balance of trade which has tipped to our side will do all that needs to be done. And we shall hold the balance as we have it. For years we have been shipping heavy cottons in on the great marts which England called her own, and where she supposed no rival would meet her, but now we are exporting prints and light cottons, and there is no reason why we may not continue to do so. Moreover, not a few of the silks worn in this country and considered good enough for all except the wealthiest class, are home-made. The same is the case with men's dress goods. A few years ago we imported iron and nails, and a great variety of heavy hardware which we do not now, but on the contrary are beginning to export. Our hard ware finds its way into the very heart of manufacturing England. We are sure of holding the balance of trade, all that is necessary to bring on hard money payments is a judicious letting alone of things.

The gentleman referred to coincides with the President on one point, that of the trade balance, but on no other. He called attention to the President's remark that gold, if not utilized at home, would be exported like any other article of merchandise, and asked, who will buy it, and how will it be bought? He added that once France might buy it with her silks, and England with her iron and manufactures of different kinds, but now we can make good silks for ourselves and iron and early all other necessary articles. There is not much danger, if indeed any all, of gold being exported as merchandise unless used at home as money. The rest of the matter is, we have the upper-hand, and we can keep it without help from Congress, at least in the way proposed.

Leaving the bank presidents for the cashiers, one was asked the probable result of legislation upon resumption. The answer was that gold is an extremely susceptible thing, rising and falling with the fears and hopes of men. It is now quietly coming down within reach of all. Attempts to decoy it along faster will result in driving it higher. Speculation is sure to follow short spurts, and speculation is the one thing now to be avoided. The gentlemen spoken of agreed that the President is right in asking the repeal of the limitation on the use of silver coin, and said that the country could use and be benefited by a circulation of $150,000,000 of silver.

A second cashier called upon held that the President is wise in suggesting the funding of the greenbacks. So long as there remain out so many of these there will be a perpetual obstacle to resumption and a perpetual fear that resumption cannot take place. With this large indebtedness outstanding, any trouble among us will arouse apprehensions that it cannot be removed, and therefore as clearing the way to hard money and as improving our general credit, Grant's proposal to find is a good one. If it should be said that this would restrict the amount circulating medium, the answer is that there is no limit to what the national banks may issue when they comply with law; the banks can supply the money needed any given time.

It will be seen from what is here stated at on the whole the President's views do not meet with very ready acceptance, although in detail by the several persons spoken to they do.

We give below quotations on the leading railway securities of this vicinity, as revised by the latest Eastern reports:

	Bid. Asked.		Bid. Asked.
V. R. R. 7's	95	Oil C'k'l m 7s, 81	82½
" 6's	95	P., Ft W & C	
V R Rights 50	55	stock..... 101	102¼
P Stock.... 93½	93	First mtg gaz'd 9	
Pconsol s'f.110½		Do 3d mtge.. 111½	
2d mtge 105		Do 3d mtge.105½	
Rights 1st m. 105	106	P. T & F 7s.. 47½	49
t Rights c.. 105¼		West Penn 6's 80	
Rights m.. 97	99½	P. & Conn. 7s 105¼	
t Rights c.. 103¾			

The following is the report of the prices leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire near noon to-day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
Pennsylvania Central	.....	.....	46¼
Reading	.....	.....	15¼
Lehigh Coal & Nav. Co.	19	19½	400
Lehigh, Tit'le & Buffalo	7¾	.....	200
Lehigh Valley	47	47¾	.....
Northern Pacific	.....	.....	.....
C. & N. I. 7's	.....	.....	80
Allegheny Valley 7-30's	105	.....	.....

[By Associated Press.]

Gold Closed at 105¾.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, February 5.—Money easy at 4 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 4 @ 5½ per cent. Customs receipts $243,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $9,000. Clearings $42,000,000. Sterling steady at 481¼@485¾.

GOLD.

Gold opened at 105¾ and closed at 105¾. Carrying rates 105 per cent. Silver at London 57¾ pence per ounce; here bar silver is 1314 per ounce in greenbacks and 124½ in gold; silver coin ¼ per cent. discount.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bond strong and higher. Railroad bonds strong. State securities quiet. Stocks were regular with coal shares and express stocks strong and higher, and the remainder of the list generally a little lower. Western Union was the weak point in the market and declined from 75¾ to 74¾, at which price it closed. One of the reasons for the increased strength in coal stocks was an advance in Reading at Philadelphia to 15½ and a "squeeze" in coal stocks. Transactions at the Stock Exchange aggregated 111,000 shares, of which 9,000 were Western Union, 15,000 St. Paul, 9,000 Lake Shore, 5,000 Michigan Central, 9,000 Delaware, Lackawanna and Western and 8,000 New Jersey Central. The following were the closing quotations:

Pacific Mail	14½	N. J. Central	27¾
Quicksilver	15½	Rock Island	101½
Do. preferred	49	St. L. & P. Tel. Co	19
Pacific Mail	25¾	Do. preferred	49
Peripos	4¾	Toledo & Wabash	7¾
Do preferred	10	Union Pacific	101
Adams Express	104½	Terre Haute	3½
American Ex	69	Do. preferred	13½
American Ex	69½	Chicago & Alton	101½
United States	30	Do. preferred	111
Wells Fargo Ex	34½	Ohio & Mississippi	25¾
Canton	70	Del. & Lack	70
Do. preferred	15	C. & P. Tel. Co	15½
Columbus	140	Missouri Pacific	103
Do. preferred	135	Indiana Central	2¾
Michigan Central	87½	Har. & Quincy	116½
Cincinnati	1	Hannibal & St. Jos.	12
Lake Shore	84½	Union Pac. stock	67¼
Illinois Central	87½	Central Pac. bds	102¾
Delaware and Hud	92¼	Union Pac. bds	104¾
Northwestern	29	Do. land grants	102¾
Do. preferred	55	Do. S. F. bonds	99¾
C., C. & I	32		

GOVERNMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881	114½	New 4½'s	107
5-20's, 1865	108½	10-40's, registered	111¾
5-20's, 1867	111½	10-40's, coupons	111¾
5-20's, 1868	111¾	Currency 6's	122½
New 5's	111		

STATE BONDS.

Tennessee, old	43	Virginia, old	39
Tennessee, new	42½	Missouri 6's	103½
Virginia, new	39		

LONDON, February 5, 5 P. M.—The amount of bullion withdrawn from the Bank of England on balance to-day is £74,000.

NEW ORLEANS, February 5.—Gold 105. Sight exchange on New York ½ per cent. premium. Sterling exchange 513.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, February 5, 1877.

Under the stimulus of favoring weather and an active demand, both from city and country, trade to-day has been very good, and comparatively excellent. Country dealers are laying in stocks for the month before them, and city people who have been kept in doors of late by inclemency of weather were busy in making purchases. Many of the leading houses in the various branches of the general markets were thronged as in prosperous times. Quotations continue as when last reported except in a few instances.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city since our last are as follows: Wheat, bush.....2,025; Cheese, lbs.....109; Flour, bbls.....693; Bacon, pcs.....1,350; Oats, bush.....570; Bacon, lbs.....24; Corn, bush.....446; Hay, bales.....200; Butter, pkgs.....64; Apples, bbls.....89; Rye, bush.....25; Potatoes, bush.....205

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

GRAIN—The market was in almost every respect as it has hitherto been described, being without important change either in tone or prices, and without much fluctuation. Wheat and corn hold their own, as do oats. In barley and rye very little is doing. The following are the ruling quotations: Prime red wheat $1 46@1 48 ₱ bushel; prime amber $1 48@1 50; prime white $1 46@1 55. Corn—Ear on wharf 52c; on track 53@53c ₱ bushel; prime shelled 51@53c. Oats—Prime white 39@40c ₱ bushel; mixed 36@38c. Rye 73@73c ₱ bushel. Barley 98c ₱ bushel for choice; 74@80c for good to prime spring; $1 00 for prime fall; for low grades 60c.

FLOUR—The market remains at a stand, though the lower grades of flour are less active than some time ago. The higher grades are in fair supply. Quotations: Winter white wheat flour at $5 50@5 75 ₱ bbl; No. 1 amber do $5 00@5 25; prime white flour in Wisconsin $7 25@7 75; Minnesota $7 25@8 00; fancy St. Louis $9 25@9 75; Graham flour $5 75@7 25; Cincinnati do per bushel; second do $7 00 per barrel; Keg $3 75@4 00; rye flour $4 75@5 00 per barrel.

MILL FEED—The market is firm at the following quotations: Bran $17 00@19 00 ₱ ton; coarse middlings $18 00@20 00; middlings $22 00@25 00; chopped feed $20 00@23 00.

HAY—Market well supplied and rather dull. We quote: Timothy $13 00@14 00 for No. 1 timothy $12 00@13 00 from first hands baled. Prairie—Upland $11 00@11 00; mixed $9 00@10 00.

Country Produce.

The market, everything considered, was a fair one to-day, though still slow compared to the old time. The quotations will continue in less rule until the present tureating point is passed. The quotations for to-day are as below:

APPLES—Are plenty, and in moderate demand at $1 50@2 75 ₱ barrel for the best; lower grades $1 00@1 50.

ASHES—Going slowly, and quoted at 3½@3½c ₱ gallon as to quality.

BEESWAX—A little scarce, and quoted at 30@32c ₱ lb.

BRANS—Are in fair demand at $2 00@2 25, according to quality; prime white navy.

Lima beans, new crop, $4 50 ₱ bushel.

BROOM CORN—We quote: Choice hurl 6½@7c, as to quality; brush, tall wire 5@5½c; medium green 4½@4½c; red topped 3@3½c; inferior not desired; crooked in fair demand at 3@3½c, as to quality.

BUTTER—Not very little doing and quoted at 30@35c ₱ lb for new crop.

SHAKER DRIED CORN—Fair supply and quoted at 9c ₱ lb.

HOMINY—Demand moderate at $3 50@3 75 ₱ barrel.

NUTS—Hickory nuts dull at 75@81 00 per bushel; shellbarks, a light demand and quoted at $1 25@1 50.

ONIONS—Still scarce and quoted at $4 00 ₱ barrel.

HONEY—California comb 20@22c ₱ lb; home honey 22c.

CRANBERRIES—Supply sufficient and market dull. We quote: Extra cranberries as $9 00@10 00 ₱ barrel; $3 25@3 50 ₱ bushel.

CIDER—Market slow and supply sufficient. We quote at 5½@6 00, per barrel, for common; $5 00@5 50 for choice.

DRIED FRUITS—The supply is abundant and the demand very limited. We quote dried apples at 4@5c ₱ lb for prime quarters; 5@6c for sliced; 7@8c for cut; 10@12c evaporated peaches 15@20@35c per pound according to quality.

DRIED PEARS—The demand is moderate for new crop at $1 50@1 60 ₱ bushel.

BUTTER—Market well supplied. We quote: Choice solid packed 18@19c per lb; do rolls 22@23c; choice dairy rolls 24@25c.

EGGS—Very little doing. Fair demand at $3 75@4 00 per case for prime; $2 25@2 50 per bbl.

CHEESE—We quote prime Ohio factory at 11½@12c; in round lots; job lots 12½@13c. New York Goshen 15½@16c in round lots; 16@16½c in a jobbing way. Young American 13@14c; nutmeg 17c.

SEEDS—Not much doing yet. The rates at the store are: Timothy seed, $2 20@2 30 ₱ bushel of 62 lbs; timothy seed $2 00@2 15.

FOOD—Fresh are coming in freely. We quote fresh at 30c ₱ dozen and pickled at 23@25c.

FEATHERS—Choice are quoted at 55@60c ₱ lb at wholesale; 60@70c in a jobbing way: mixed are quoted at 35@40c ₱ lb at wholesale; 40@45c in a jobbing way.

DRESSED HOGS—Supply light and quoted at 7½@7½ ₱ lb.

POULTRY—The season being about over the supply of both dressed and live is nearly exhausted. The demand is as heretofore. We quote nominally. Dressed chickens 12½@13c. We quote: Turkeys at 12@13 ₱ lb. Live chickens in coop 60@65 ₱ pair. Ducks, live, 45@50c ₱ pair. Dressed, 12½@13½c ₱ lb. Geese $3 50@4 00 each; dressed 8@9c ₱ lb.

POTATOES—Better and still coming in. We quote: $1 15 ₱ bushel on wharf and $1 20@1 25 in store. A few sweets are in market and quoted at $1 00@1 25 ₱ barrel, as to quality.

VINEGAR—There is scarcely anything doing. We quote nominally 12@16c ₱ gallon for prime country cask; 14c for best city refining wine vinegar 26c.

WOOL—Nothing doing. Common fleece, ₱ lb, 25c; ¼ to full blood, ₱ lb, 27@33c; combing, ₱ lb, 40c; tub-washed d, ₱ lb, 38c; city pullings, ₱ lb, 27@30c; unwashed, ₱ lb, 18@22c.

Provisions.

We report a very fair trade in the provision line, but few changes in prices. We reduce the prices of short rib and clear sides ¼c per pound.

BACON—Shoulders 8c per pound; short rib sides 10½c; c ur sides 10¾c.

CUT AND CURED MEATS—Hams are firm at 12¾c ₱ lb for extra sugar-cured. Breakfast bacon was steady, and we quote sugar-cured at 12½c. Sugar-cured shoulders were steady at 8c. Sugar-cured beef sugar-cured, was firm at 13c. Beef tongues, per dozen, are quoted at $6 50.

LARD—Kettle lard, tierces, 11¾c; ¼ bbls 12¼c; pails 12¾c. Refined lard—Tierces 12c; ¼ bbls 12½c; ½ bbls 13c; 5 lb. tin pails 14½c; 5-lb do, 15½c; 6-lb do, 15¾c; 3-lb caddies, 14½c; 5-lb do, 14¾c.

LARD OIL—Cincinnati oil, double extra $1 00 @1 05; No. 1, do 85@90c; No. 2, do 75@80c; yellow winter, do 70@75c; extra white winter, do 80@85c; No. 1, do 75@80c; No. 2, do 65@70c; No. 3, do 60@65c.

PETROLEUM—Going slowly, and quoted at 35@38c ₱ gallon as to quality.

TALLOW—Is quiet and steady at 5½@5¾c ₱ lb for prime; 4½@4¾c for No. 2; 4@4½c for No. 3; 3½@3¾c for cake.

TOBACCO—Is in fair demand at 6@9c for common to medium leaf; 10@12c for good to fine leaf; 13@15c for choice; 16@18c for fine; 20@25c for extra fine; 30@35c for wrappers.

WHISKY—Is in fair demand at $1 08 ₱ gallon for finished goods in bond.

Trade to-day in sugars, molasses, coffees and teas is as follows:

Green Coffees		Refined Sugars	
Fancy Rio	20	A	10¾
Choice Rio	19	Standard A	10¼
Prime Rio	18	Extra C	9¾
Good Rio	17	Yellow C	9¼@9½
Ordinary Rio	16	Golden C	9@9¼
Java	29	Teas	
Roasted Coffees		Imperial	80@90
Rio, in papers	22	Gunpowder	80@90
20 grades	23	Japan	35@50
25 grades	24	Oolong	60@80
Rio, in bulk	24@27½	Powdered	12@—
Java, in p'k'gs	32	Granulated	12@—
Java, in bulk	30@35	Molasses, ₱ gall.	
Teas.		Strp'y ch. N. O	62@—
Young Hyson	65@80	Prime	55@—
Gunpowder	85@	Syrups.	
Imperial	80@	Ex. white drips	45@50
Japan	85@	Sugar drips	35@
Oolong	80@	Lower grades	25@30
Fancy do	1 00	Starch.	₱ lb.
Sonoming	68 @75	Pearl	11½@12c
Spices (whole)		Silver gloss	8½@—
Cloves	20	Corn	7¾@10½
Allspice	18	Chicago gloss	8½@—
Cassia	30@ 35c	Chicago corn	8½@—
Nutmegs	$1 15	Rice.	
Pepper	18 @ 20c	Choice Carlina	6½@7
Soaps.		Louisiana	5½@6¼
Irish soap, ₱ box	$1 20	Soda.	
S. S. Star ₱ box	5 75	Bi-carb, in kegs	4½@5
Babbitt's best, ₱ box	6 75	Bi-carb, in ½ kegs	5
Gold do	6 25	Bi-carb, in ¼ papers	5½
Extra olive do	3 80	Candles.	
Dob. N. Y. ₱ box	3 50	Star, full wt	16 c
German mottled do	7	Stearine	11@15 c
California, ₱ box	$4 20	Mould	11½ c

FISH—Following are the ruling quotations at which sales are made:

	Per bbl.		Per bbl.
Extra No. 1 Mess mackerel	$7 00	Round herring	$6 00
Extra No. 1 shore	7 00	Split Labrador do	8 00
Extra No. 1 fat	17 00	Lake Fish, ½ bbls	3 50
Extra No. 2 large	15 00	Lake Herring, do	2 50
No. 2 medium	12 50	Lake Trout, do	6
Large No. 3	12 00	Medium Georges	5½
No. 3 medium	9 00	Haddock, ½ bbls	3
Whitefish, ½ bbls	5 75	No. 1 Herring, ½ bx	35
Lake Trout, do	4 50	Scaled herring, do	40

CANNED GOODS—Demand light. We quote green peas, 2 ₱ cans ₱ dozen, $1 50@2 25; raspberries do $1 85; strawberries do $1 75; gooseberries do, $1 85; pine apples do, $2 25; blackberries do, $1 50; peaches, 2 ₱ cans per dozen, $2 25; tomatoes do, $1 00; pickles, bbls, $8 25; half-bbls, $4 75.

FOREIGN FRUITS—The market is quiet and prices range as below. We append the latest arrivals: New, new, per box, $2 25; London layers, new, $3 25; Muscatel $2 40; mat raisins $4 65 ₱ mat; Valentias, new, 9½@9¾ ₱ lb; Sultanas 12c. Dates 8@8½c ₱ lb. Currants 7½@. Citron 32c. Prunes old, 6c; new, 7½@. Almonds—Languedoc 27c; do shelled 36c; Ivica 22c. Walnuts—Naples 20c; Marbot 15c; Sicily Bilberra 18c. Smyrna figs, new, 14c. Brazil nuts 10c. Macaroni 11@12c. Tapioca 16c. Lemons—Palermo ₱ box, $2 75. Oranges—Messina $2 75 ₱ box; Florida $3 50 ₱ box. Cocoanuts $7 00 ₱ hundred.

Petroleum.

REFINED—The market was dull, nothing doing worthy of notice, the demand being entirely local. Selling by the car load at 23c. These rates are above those to the East from second hands. In regard to the future of oil it is all guess work. Of course the market is partially in the present situation much longer.

NEW YORK—Dealers still report a dull market. There is no shipping demand. Prices are too uncertain to quote. Sales are reported from second hands at 22c; cases 30@31½c.

BALTIMORE AND PHILADELPHIA—The market was entirely devoid of animation. Shippers are demanding former rates, but buyers refuse to take hold. Cases 30c.

CRUDE—Is dull, February 5, 6 P. M.—The crude oil market has been quiet throughout the day, with an undertone of strength, although buyers were reluctant to pay advancing prices. Credit and United opened at $3 11¼, advanced rapidly to $3 15, then gradually fell back to $3 12¾; here it held firm and is now quoted at $3 12¾, with very little oil offering. Shipment quiet; no open transactions; outside lines at $3 08@3 09. Union—None offered. Shipments from the lower district for February 3d 22,893 barrels.

[By Western Union Telegraph.]

OIL CITY, February 5.—The *Derrick* says of Saturday's market: At the opening the feeling was quite weak, and there were offerings at $3 11¾, but before any sales were made the feeling became better, and first sales were made at $3 12¾. From this the market soon advanced to $3 15, dropped to $3 13¾, rallied to $3 15 for dated Monday, declined to $3 09¾, and closed at $3 10¾, the final sales having been of old certificates at $3 10, the closing price $3 10¾. Sales 61,000 barrels.

NEW YORK, February 5, closing 4.—Petroleum —There is absence of important trade and prices wholly nominal. Sales are 9,000 barrels residuum at 9c. Refined from second hands is offered in small lots at 22c. Refiners hold as follows: New York delivery: refined at 12¾@ 12¾c in bulk and 15¾c in barrels; city naptha 14c in shipping order; refined in barrels quoted at 23¾c for spot; cases at 30@31½c. At Philadelphia refined 22¾c from refiners' hands and 23c for small lots in second hands. At Baltimore 23¾c.

PARKER, February 5.—Market firm; United $1 13¾ bid; shipments about 35.

TITUSVILLE, February 5.—Market quiet at $1 22½.

OIL CITY, February 5.—Market quiet and weak; $3 11¾ bid for United at wells; shipment not quotable.

ROUSEVILLE, February 5.—Market quiet and nothing doing; held at $3 09.

TIMONTY, February 5.—Market very quiet; held about $3 10.

PHILADELPHIA, February 5.—Market quiet; crude 12c; standard white 20½c; cases 30c.

[By Associated Press.]

NEW YORK, February 5.—Petroleum dull and nominal; crude 12½c; refined 20½c; cases 28½c; city naptha 14c.

LIVERPOOL, February 5.—Refined petroleum 17½ spirits do 11d.

LONDON, February 5.—Refined petroleum 19½@19d.

ANTWERP, February 5.—Refined petroleum 50 francs.

MOVEMENTS OF PETROLEUM.

	Barrels.
Crude receipts, A. V. R. R.	1,200
Refined shipments, A. V. R. R.	1,723
Crude receipts, Conduit Pine Line	4,998

General Merchandise.

ALCOHOL AND HIGHWINES—We quote alcohol at $2 18@2 30 ₱ gallon; highwines at $1 10 ₱ gallon.

BAGS AND BAGGING—There is a fair demand and prices rule as follows: Extra gunny bags 23c; do second-hand 18c; Union bags 24c; American A's 20c; Philadelphia A's 23c; California grain bags 90; English do 12c; Penn Mill 3 bushel 36c; do 2½ bushel 30c; do 2 bushel 26c; gunny 2 bushel do 28c.

BAKING POWDER—Quoted as follows: ½ lb cans $1 80 ₱ dozen; ½ lb cans $3 00; 1 lb cans $5 50; 5 lb cans $27 00; 10 lb boxes 40c ₱ lb. Market steady and demand good.

BAGGING—The advance in belting recently made and reported is maintained. The market is without any special features. The price list is as follows:

	Per foot.		Per foot.
1 inch wide	9	5 inches wide	57
1¼ inch wide	10½	6 inches wide	67
2 inches wide	21	6 inches wide	69
2½ inches wide	27	7 inches wide	81
3 inches wide	33	8 inches wide	1 08
3½ inches wide	39	10 inches wide	1 17
4 inches wide	45	12 inches wide	1 35
4½ inches wide	51	14 inches wide	1 65

Discount 15 to 20 per cent., as to quality and quantity.

LEATHER AND HIDES—There has been a noticeable falling off in the demand for leather recently, and sales are restricted to immediate wants. Oak, rough, leather and No. 1 finished harness is in fair supply, but with very little the supply equals the demand. Our quotations are without material change. The quotations on hides are unchanged.

Leather			
Oak sole, country ₱ lb		36@	38
Oak sole, city		38@	40
Red sole, Buenos Ayres heavy		28@	31
Red sole, Buenos Ayres mid		26@	30
Red sole, Ormoco and Cala		28@	30
Red sole, Orinoco and Cala. mid		28@	30
Red sole, good damaged		25@	28
Oak, rough		24@	27
Harness, city		36@	38
Harness, country		36@	38
Harness, No. 2 and common		26@	28
Collar, oak, sides, ₱ foot		13@	17
Collar, oak, ₱ lb		37@	40
Fair bridle and line, ₱ doz		54 00@	66 00
Best leather, ₱ lb		40@	42
Finished calf		90@	1 20
Finished upper, ₱ foot		16@	20
Finished kips, ₱ lb		50@	90
Hides.			
Green salted cows		8	@ 8¾
Green salted steers, light		8	@ 8¾
Green salted steers, heavy		9	@ 9¾
Green salted steers, heavy		9	@ 9¾
Green salted calf		12	@13
Green butcher cows		6	@ 6½
Green butcher steers, light		6	@ 7
Green butcher steers, heavy		7	@ 7½
Green butcher calf		10	@ 12

BROOMS—The market is particularly active, the demand upon manufacturers in some instances exceeding the supply. Below we give the new card prices:

No. 3 hurl, plain handles, red corn	$1 50
No. 4 hurl, varnished hand's, red corn	2 40
No. 5 hurl, varnished hand's, red corn	2 40
No. 1 hurl, plain handles, green corn	1 65
No. 2 hurl, plain handles, green corn	1 90
No. 3 hurl, painted hd's, brace finish	2 25
No. 4 hurl, painted hdls, velvet finish	2 60
No. 5 hurl, painted hdls, velvet finish	2 75
No. 6 hurl, painted hdls, velvet finish	3 00
No. 3 carpet, velvet finish	3 25
No. 4 carpet, velvet finish	3 50
No. 5 carpet, velvet finish	3 75
No. 3 parlor, extra fine	4 00
No. 4 parlor, extra fine	4 00
Stencil brooms	3 50@4 00
Toy brooms, plain finish	1 25@1 50
Toy brooms, velvet finish	1 50@1 75
Whisks, plain finish, 6, 8 and 10 inch	1 50@1 75
Whisks velvet finish, 6, 8 and 10 inch	1 50@1 75

CRACKERS—Demand active and prices as follows: Water crackers 6c; soda crackers 7c; butter crackers 7c; soda crackers 7c; extra Boston 10c; extra sodas 10c; ginger snaps 10c; lemon biscuit 12c. Trenton hard made crackers 9c per pound.

HAY—The demand is slow at $12 00@12 50 for Kentucky rough.

OILS—Trade is fairly active and the market is strong. We quote jobbing prices as follows: Neatsfoot oil, pure, per gallon, 90c; miners' oil—No. 1, per gallon, 150 degrees fire test, 35c; carbon, 110 degrees fire test, 25@26c; extra engine (amber color), 50c, No. 1 engine (amber), 40c; extra engine (dark), 35c; spindle oil, 50c; West Virginia, 28 degrees gravity, 30c; No. 1 West Virginia, 25c; natural lubricating, 28 degrees gravity, 29@22c; car oil, No. 1, 18c; car oil, No. 2, 15c; amber burning fluid, 180 oil 140 fire test 15@16c; residuum (prepared), 4c 00; residuum (common), 4c. Strawberry grease, 12 00; rolling mill grease, ₱ pound, 7c; bleached winter whale oil 75c; cod oil, for tanners, 50@55c; straits oil, for tanners, 50@60c.

RAGS—The market is steady. We quote cotton mixed 2½@2¾c; bagging 3c; Manila, 3½c; new burlaps 4½c; old burlaps 2½c; mixed rags, 1½c; tarred rope and bolt rope 2½c; clean white linen rags, 5c; No. 1 manila, 3½@3¾c ₱ lb; No. 2 do, 2½@2¾c; tarred rope and bolt rope, 2½@2¾c; clean white linen rags, 5c; mixed rags, 2½

CITY MATTERS.

For seventy-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Weather Report.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., ROOM 58, FIRST NATIONAL BANK, PITTSBURGH, PA., February 5, 1877.

Time.	Bar.	Ther.	Hum.	Wind Dir.	Wind Vel.	Miles	Weath
7 A. M.	30 07	33	80	S. E.	3		Foggy.
2 P. M.	30 07	52	63	S. W.	4		Fair.
9 P. M.	30 109	32	79	N. W.	6		Cloudy

Mean barometer.....30.058 Highest thermom.. 50
Mean thermom..... 37 Lowest thermom.... 32

City Printing.

The Committee on City Printing chose Mr. W. S. Pier as Chairman.

It was decided to ask an appropriation of $8,000 for the year.

The fifth days of April, July, October and December will be the time of regular meetings.

The Controller was authorized to advertise for sundry printing.

Allegheny Death Rate.

There were 19 deaths in Allegheny last week from the following causes: Bronchitis, 2; consumption, 1; convulsions, 1; diphtheritis, 1; debility, 1; endometritis, 1; enteritis, 1; typhoid fever, 1; hypertrophy, 1; meningitis, 1; nephritis, 1; old age, 1; general paralysis, 1, pulmonary oedenis, 1; pyæmia, 1; smallpox, 1; syphilitis, 1; unknown, 1. Of these, 13 were males and 6 females.

The Chamber of Commerce.

There was no quorum present at the meeting of the Directors of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday, but Chairman Howe, under the resolution passed at the last meeting, announced the following committee to attend the meeting of the city Finance Committee and urge a reduction in the appropriation for the year: Messrs. C. Meyran, S. Heymer, W. G. Johnson, G. W. Hallman and A. F. Keating.

City Ordinance Committee.

The Ordinance Committee of City Councils organized yesterday with Dr. James Kerr as Chairman.

The proposed ordinance creating a Board of Estimate for the Board of Health was considered and laid over.

An ordinance creating the office of council messenger and fixing the salary at $400 was affirmatively recommended.

The committee decided to meet at the call of the Chair.

A Musical Treat.

Elsewhere is published our report of the anniversary meeting of the Women's Christian Association, which was crowded out of Monday's paper. In the report is, inadvertently omitted mention of the excellent music furnished on the occasion. The choir was under the direction of Professor Bissel, organist, with Miss Colville as leading soprano. The music was a rare treat and was highly enjoyed by all present.

Life Insurance.

Just now, when the status of life insurance companies is being rigidly inquired into, the statement of the Northwestern Mutual, for the year 1876, as published in another column, will be read with interest. A marked feature of the report is the fact that the interest has been paying the losses and expenses for three years past. This is the first company that has ever been enabled to accomplish that gratifying result. The large surplus invested, and the character and amount of the securities held, are evidences of the highest prosperity and stability.

Allegheny Water Committee.

This committee met last evening, and although in session until a late hour very little business of public interest was transacted. It was decided to ask Councils for an appropriation of $39,000 to run the department for the two months ending April 1, 1878. Several complaints were heard of a scarcity of water on Taggart street and other localities. A sub-committee was appointed to ascertain whether a better supply could be obtained by a change in the pipe connections. A sub-committee was also appointed to revise the salaries of employees.

The Murderer Green.

The execution of Green for the murder of his step-brother at Mansfield, is fixed for Monday next. To-day the Board of Pardons will meet, when an effort will be made to have the sentence commuted to imprisonment for life. Mr. J. H. Baldwin, counsel for Green, left last evening for Harrisburg. Green, at the time he was sentenced, insisted that he committed the deed in self-defense. He still persists in this statement, but has no hope, however, of favorable action on the part of the Pardon Board. He is visited frequently by members of the Young Men's Christian Association, who administer spiritual consolation. He is mother's son is an inmate of the County Home, and his wife has not visited him for several weeks. The Sheriff will make no arrangements for the execution until the Board of Pardons takes action. In regard to the disposition of the body, the friends of the doomed man have not as yet indicated any intention of laying claim to it. But one application has been made for it, and that is from the South Side Medical Society.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Common Pleas No. 1—Judges Sterrett and Collier.

J. McLandburg vs. H. Floyd & Co., previously reported. On trial.

Levy Edmundson vs. John Penney; action of ejectment for land situated in Lincoln township, the mouth of the Youghiogheny river. On trial.

Commonwealth ex rel. vs. Casper Negley. Rule to show cause why petition should not be quashed.

Irwin, in trust, &c., vs. John S. McKee. Rule granted to open judgment and allow garnishee of defend.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Jones vs. Point Bridge Company; Trauerman vs. Brewers Insurance Company; same vs. National Insurance Company; same vs. Humboldt Insurance Company; Lloyd vs. Selbeneck; Chittle vs. Olnhausen; Maley vs. Castle Shannon Railroad Company; Hahn vs. Good; Thmsen vs. Ledlie; Biggert vs. City of Pittsburgh; Park Savings Bank vs. Burchfield; Rigdon *et al.* vs. Hanlon; Campbell vs. Erdner; Vich and wife vs. The Hildise Bund; Howe Machine Company vs. Fuhr.

Common Pleas No. 2—Full Bench.

Samuel T. Duncan vs. Ralya & Robertson. On trial.

P. C. Shields & Co. vs. Wm. Bowers, owner, and C. & John R. McMahon and George W. Rundels; *set fa* on a mechanic's lien. On trial.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Walker vs. Anderson *et al.*; city of Pittsburgh vs. Patterson; Hare vs. Darlington; Martin, widow, vs. Pennsylvania Railroad Company; Vandergrift *et al.* vs. Lighthill's heirs; Patterson, administratrix, vs. Patterson *et al.*; Patterson *et ux.* vs. Ertzman; Patterson *et ux.* vs. Weaver; Patterson *et ux.* vs. Haisley; Patterson *et ux.* vs. McKee; Patterson *et ux.* vs. McKee; Patterson *et ux.* vs. Morgan; Patterson *et ux.* vs. Cowley; Snyder vs. Heath; City of Pittsburgh vs. G. Phillips.

Quarter Sessions—Judge Stowe.

John Straub, charged with assault and battery on oath of August Winten. Verdict of guilty.

William Emory, indicted for larceny on oath of William Bowden, was found guilty on the indictment against William Emory charging him with larceny, *a nolle pros.* was allowed.

Commonwealth against John Grunig, charged with the larceny of two dollars on oath of James O. Post. Jury out.

Christopher Kelling is on trial on a charge of malicious mischief. It is alleged that the defendant pulled down a flag flying up in a vacant field on the occasion of a political procession.

Legal Notes.

Judge Ketcham did not hold court yesterday, as he was absent from the city.

W. I. Burr, of Butler county, filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy, and the matter was referred to Register Maxwell.

The cases of William S. Evans and Sanford B. Coulson, charged with perjury by William J. Kountz and W. D. Spiking, were *not prosted* yesterday, the prosecutors having consented to the same and paid the costs. It will be recollected that a suit between the parties was tried several years ago in the Common Pleas No. 2, before Judge A. Kirkpatrick, in which it was alleged that the defendants to these perjury cases swore falsely.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

Ten new cases of smallpox were reported in Allegheny yesterday. The Health Officer has made arrangements for the re-opening of the pest-house at Claremont.

One of the axles of car No. 12, Pittsburgh and Birmingham line, was broken yesterday morning near the Monongahela House.

GEORGE JERRELS, aged ten years, broke his left arm yesterday morning by falling from an old shed near Twenty-second and Carson streets.

THERE will be a citizens' suggestion meeting on Wednesday evening at the house of Fred. Stahle, on Spring Gargen avenue, Seventh ward, Allegheny.

MATILDA RHODE, *alias* Chapman, is charged before Alderman D. L. Smith, of Allegheny, on oath of Mary K. Wayne, with the larceny of wearing apparel valued at $10. The accused was held for a hearing.

AT the pumping engine foundations at Negley's Run, the Allegheny ice piled itself as high as the top of the work, forty feet. But for the coffer dam above the foundations the boiler, etc., in position, would have been damaged considerably.

JAMES SICKLES, a coal miner in the employ of Lynch & Robinson, in Rostraver township, Westmoreland county, was killed on Friday last by a fall of "horseback." The deceased leaves a wife and eleven children. His wife was the widow of a brother of the deceased, who was killed some years since in a similar manner at the Victory mines.

THE manager of the Home of the Friendless fully appreciating the kindness of Judge Kirkpatrick, desire to tender their warmest thanks for the lecture—"Walks and Talks about Europe," delivered by him for their benefit. Also to express their obligations to Allen, Bakewell & Co., for tickets and for printing. Thanking kindly the trustees of Rev. W. H. Gill's church, and the other gentlemen who aided by selling tickets and by service to other ways to make the lecture a pecuniary success.

Experimental Chemistry.

In consequence of numerous additions to the evening class in chemistry lately formed at the Western University, and in view of the fact that applications are still being made, it has been decided to repeat the substance of the first three lectures in two lectures for the benefit of such as may wish to attend but have missed the introductory part of the course. These two lectures will be held Friday, February 9, and Monday, February 12, at 8 p. m. Admission will be free to all regular subscribers. FRANCIS C. PHILLIPS, Professor of Chemistry.

THE POLICE INVESTIGATION.

O'Mara Pleads Not Guilty to the Charge of Bribery—Ellis, the Thief, Refuses to Testify but Ferguson Tells His Story—County Detective Dressler Examined—He Confines to Give Ferguson's Statements to Him—Ex Chief Hartzell Enters a Written Protest and Answers Few Questions—Examination of Detectives—The Jealous Feeling Among Them.

The investigation into the case of Chief of Detectives Roger O'Mara, charged with violation of the police ordinance in accepting a bribe or reward was commenced yesterday morning by Mayor McCarthy. M. Swartzwelder, Esq., appeared for the Commonwealth, and T. B. Mason, Esq., for Officer O'Mara. O'Mara having pleaded not guilty the parties interested proceeded to the county jail for the purpose of examining Ferguson and Ellis.

The Mayor having requested Jailer Smith to bring the prisoners into the private parlor, kindly surrendered by the officer, he was about to comply, when R. M. Gibson, Esq., representing Ellis, stated that the latter would not testify, under instructions from the speaker. At the suggestion of Mr. Swartzwelder, Ellis was brought out so that he might state his reasons. Having appeared, Ellis said he declined under instructions of his counsel.

STATEMENT OF FERGUSON.

John Ferguson, the other prisoner expressed a willingness to be examined and being sworn proceeded to give a long statement. We give below the main points as bearing upon this case and the Boggs & Buhl robbery. He detailed how eight or ten months ago he made the acquaintance of Ellis whose real name is Arthur Woodman, in Chicago, where Ferguson gave Ellis work at painting. They subsequently met in St. Louis and again Ferguson gave Ellis work at painting. Ellis appeared to be keeping bad company, and burglars' tools being found upon him he was ordered from the city. They went to Cincinnati together and there separated, Ellis going to Cleveland and Ferguson coming to Pittsburgh, Ellis following soon after. Here Ellis worked for Bartlett, who was selling jewelry, and he made some robberies, among them that at Oppenheimer's. At this time O'Mara caused witness' arrest and the Mayor fined him $100. After that, continued witness, "I

PAINTED O'MARA AND M'GOVERN'S HOUSES,

and they got me seven or eight other jobs; while I was painting O'Mara's house I became acquainted with his little boy and liked him; while keeping a saloon I helped O'Mara and McGovern in detecting criminals; I was still painting while keeping a saloon; I frequently sent for O'Mara and McGovern; the relations of O'Mara and me continued until I was arrested on this charge; O'Mara, McGovern and Demmel often came to my house in search of information; Smith, Mayor McCarthy, Demmel, O'Mara, or McG—— never offered me immunity from arrest for giving this information.

Ferguson then relates the visits of Mayor McCarthy to him after his incarceration in the lock up, and of the latter's expressions of belief in Ferguson's guilt and efforts to get the facts to prove it. No offers of release were made him to convict Ellis. O'Mara was the last person witness would tell if he ever committed a robbery; witness knew he was to be indicted; knew a man who spent forty dollars with the Grand Jury to get them to ignore the bill as to Ellis. Told O'Mara that he was indicted, before the bill left the Grand Jury, and O'Mara said it was impossible, as there was no evidence. O'Mara advised witness to give himself up and to see his [witness'] attorney. O'Mara never hinted, directly or indirectly, that witness should go away.

REASON FOR LEAVING THE CITY.

Ferguson continued: "I went away on the advice of another man who was implicated in the robbery, and whose name has never been mentioned; he said if I would go away Ellis could be gotten out, but if I staid he could not; the man had a partner with Bartlett; they are now both in the same establishment; one of the two offered me $200 to assist me in getting a pardon; they employed Mr. Gibson to defend Ellis; overtures were made to me to testify for Ellis; my wife and all the other witnesses were at Mr. Gibson's office and gave their statement; one of the men referred to visited my wife and wanted her to put up $100 for the defense of Ellis; she told him I had to leave home on Ellis' account, and she wouldn't give a cent; the man who told me I was indicted, told me before the Grand Jury went into session that if Ellis was indicted I would be too; I only intended to remain until Ellis' trial was over; then I intended to return and give myself up; I couldn't tell exactly how long I was in Steubenville; I was drunk pretty nearly all the time; it was like a dream to me; while in jail I had several interviews with Dressler; he told me that it was not me he was after; it was Roger O'Mara; I told him that anything I could do I would do for him.

When he spoke of a certain party, witness had no reference to any one about the Mayor's office. It was the same party who engaged Mr. Gibson, and witness did not recollect having told Dressler that it was by advice of O'Mara that he went away. The interviews with Dressler were for the purpose of implicating O'Mara but the engagement was first to secure the acquittal of Ellis.

THE PONY TRANSACTION.

Ferguson gives the following as the true story of the pony: "That pony Ellis and I bought together; it was long before the robbery; the pony was at Johnston's stable after we got into this trouble; Krugher's stable was full of coal; I went up to Ellis in jail and asked him what we were to do with it; I told him we couldn't sell it for anything and he said to do with it as I pleased; I knew Roger's little boy; I met Roger and told him that I had no place to keep it and that I would give it to little Mattie as a Christmas present; he said I oughtn't to do that, but I said it was eating the head off of it, and I must get rid of it, so he said he would send it out to the country; I gave it to the little boy because I liked him, and not to Roger; that was the whole pony transaction; there was no bribery about it."

Witness next told of the purchase of the valises at a Woodstreet store in Augusta, and said they were paid for by Ellis and left there for some months. They were never, he said, at his house. In answer to Mr. Mason witness said: Ellis told me he left the silk at a house where O'Mara was acquainted; he mentioned Rary's place; I never bought O'Mara a coat or cap; bought a coat and cap like O'Mara's; he told me he had bought it at Nichol's for $22, and I got him to order one for me; I did not pay for O'Mara's; I will not give the name of the men who came to me to help to get Ellis off; I am in this case now, and am going to stay in it; I won't give their names; I knew I was indicted before it came down stairs; they told me the court officer who gave them the information; it was neither District Attorney Montooth nor Mr. Dressler.

At this point the investigation was adjourned until four o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Shortly after four o'clock the investigation was resumed at the Mayor's office, a large crowd of spectators being present.

DETECTIVE DRESSLER EXAMINED

County Detective Dressler testified that he first became engaged in the transaction connected with the Boggs & Buhl robbery when on the day of the finding of a true bill a process was placed in his hands for the arrest of Ferguson; he visited Ferguson's house but not finding him went to Chief Hartzell and asked who of the officers could be transferred to help him. The chief answered but did not mention O'Mara, McGovern or Demmel. Witness related how he searched the two cities and also Ferguson's house. While the later was going on Detective Rivers and officer Johnston were standing outside. Afterwards learned that Ferguson was in Steubenville and went there for him, was met at the depot by Hartzell and Rivers. Within two days the prisoner was bailed out by Fred. Schild. Witness met Ferguson at his Dressler's house on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday evenings following his arrest. Coming up on the train Ferguson told him that when he got out he would tell him something that would open witness' eyes.

Mr. Swartzwelder here asked witness what was said at the interview.

The witness, in a manner of surprise, asked whether that was wanted.

Mr. Swartzwelder rising spoke to the Mayor with reference to evidence as bearing on the investigation.

Mr. Dressler expressed surprise that what occurred at the interview should be asked, and said he was willing to give it.

Mayor McCarthy, with some feeling, said that no speeches from witnesses were wanted. The investigation was to get at the facts, and he wanted everything told. He further said that if the witness knew anything bearing on the case, that might not be asked, he [the Mayor] wanted to hear it.

Mr. Mason here addressed the Mayor, claiming that only proper questions should be put and legal answers made. He thought that only conversations that took place in presence of O'Mara should be given.

HIS INTERVIEW WITH FERGUSON.

The discussion here ended, and Mr. Swartzwelder proceeded with another question. Witness said that he had never at any time seen O'Mara and Ferguson together in Allegheny, and he only knew about the pony from what O'Mara and Ferguson had said. Mr. Schild sued out a bail piece, but not at witness' instance, and Ferguson was rearrested. He was then again bailed by Captain Briggs, and witness had no interview with him after that except at the jail bars, when the prisoner said, "Peter, you didn't give me a chance at all." The purpose of the interviews at witness' house was not with intention against O'Mara. At the first interview on Saturday evening, Ferguson said he could not tell anything then, because he was to see a man next day. Next evening he said he had not seen the man, and on Monday evening he asked relative to the indictment. Witness never sent Ferguson a note asking him to meet him. The interviews were not satisfactory, and witness on Monday evening told Ferguson he needn't come again. The testimony given in court was not in agreement on part of Ellis to turn state evidence; never spoke to Ellis except once at the bar of jail; first knew that Ellis was to become a witness for the prosecution a few days before the case came up, didn't know of any arrangement and didn't speak to Mr. Gibson with a view of retaining him for Ellis. Ferguson told witness he had given O'Mara the pony and it had been sent to the country; he didn't know where.

The Mayor now asked Mr. Dressler to give the conversations had with Ferguson at any time.

Mr. Mason objected unless as to conversations when O'Mara was present.

The Mayor said it was important to get all information, and he desired a full statement.

Mr. Dressler—If it is the case that those are not proper and legal questions, I decline to answer.

The witness was then discharged.

MAJOR HARTZELL PROTESTS.

Major William M. Hartzell, ex-Chief, was next called, and he at once produced a protest in writing, which he read, as follows:

I have accepted service of the subpœna in this case and appear here in obedience to its mandate reluctantly.

I will not place myself in the position of disregarding legal process, nor do I wish to assume the attitude of a recusant witness, but will be sworn as a witness under protest, because I do not consider this the proper tribunal to conduct this investigation. The judgment or finding will be in the power of the Mayor, who has been implicated to some extent in the surroundings of the case, and I may be regarded as his accuser. Such being the case, therefore, and in view of his recent hostile conduct toward me, leads me to the belief that he will take advantage of the opportunity to do me great injustice.

I am entirely willing and will have no hesitation in producing the fullest testimony in regard to the matters in controversy before a tribunal so constituted, that the judge or judges will not be interested in the result of the trial, this tribunal, I am free to say, is not so interested.

WILL. M. HARTZELL.

Mr. Hartzell was then sworn, but declined to answer "in this presence" a number of questions such as these:

Q. Do you know of any fact or circumstance that would lead you to believe that either O'Mara, McGovern or Demmel were trying to protect Ferguson?

Q. Do you know whether O'Mara was trying to obstruct you in this case.

Q. Have you any reason to believe that the Mayor had any knowledge of improper conduct on the part of O'Mara?

The Mayor said—I much desire an answer to that question. I have a deep interest in it.

In regard to the question of bribery, witness knew nothing more direct than O'Mara's evidence; knew nothing more relevant than shown by his own statement; had heard some statements previous to the trial and was not prepared to say that O'Mara received this money as a bribe.

TESTIMONY OF OFFICERS.

Detective Fred. Rivers was next called and testified that he aided Dressler after Ferguson's release without informing the Mayor or Chief of Detectives about it. He was absent from the city at the time of the robbery and returned to the city on Saturday, when he learned that O'Mara, Demmel and McGovern had it in hand. He did not do anything then, because it was the rule not to interfere in one another. There was some feeling among the officers against those named above, and when he did aid Dressler he did not report as required by the rules, because he believed that O'Mara took advantage of such information for his own benefit. The further testimony of witness showed that he had information, the dark lantern story, &c., that was not given O'Mara.

Mr. Fred. Schild, who first went bail for Ferguson, was next examined. His testimony showed that he had not been influenced by Dressler in his action.

Thos. Ryne, who kept a saloon at Crawford street and Webster avenue, testified that at one time a piece of silk left at his house by any one.

Officers Long and Johnston and ex-Chief of Police Irwin were severally called but their testimony was not important, Detective Long testified that he had no jealous feeling against any officer and did not believe that any of them would be interfere with others.

Adjourned until nine o'clock this morning.

ALLEGHENY FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Meeting of the Committee on Fire Engines and Hose—Contract for New Engine Awarded—Trouble in the Ellsworth Hose Company—Charges and Counter-Charges.

The Committee on Fire Engines and Hose of Allegheny Councils met last evening, Mr. McGuire in the chair.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

Bids were opened for furnishing blue vitriol for the batteries of the fire-alarm telegraph, when that of E. F. Eggers, 85½ cents per pound, was found to be the lowest, and the contract was awarded accordingly.

The following proposals, in answer to the Controller's advertisement concerning a new engine to replace the steamer General Grant, were read:

The La France Company, of Elmira, N. Y., propose to furnish a new steamer for $4,500, and take the Grant steamer in exchange at $9,500.

The Amoskeag Company—New steamer, $4,500; will allow $500 for General Grant.

C. Ahrens & Co., of Cincinnati—will furnish a new "Ahrens" steamer for $5,900 and the General Grant.

Mr. Hunter moved that the proposition of the Amoskeag Company be accepted, which brought on a lengthy discussion was adopted by a vote of 9 to 6.

The committee decided to ask for an appropriation of $68,200 for expenses of the Fire Department for the fifteen months ending April 1, 1878.

On motion of Mr. Long the location of a hose company in the Fifth ward was recommended.

THE ELLSWORTH HOSE COMPANY.

A member said that complaints had been made that two sections of hose had been burned through the carelessness of the foreman of the Ellsworth Hose Company in the Eighth ward.

Chief Engineer Crow said he had looked into the matter and found the charge against the foreman was made by a member of the company who had been suspended by him (the Chief) for insubordination. The facts were, that two members (Adam Showers and John Pepper) had been absent from their posts of duty without leave; that when they returned the foreman (Chrisilan Lingenfelter) reproved them, and that one of the delinquents said in a very offensive way, "You have said enough to me to justify me in slapping your mouth." This conduct having been reported to the Chief he had suspended the two men from duty until he could investigate their case. He thought if the foreman could not preserve better discipline, that he was unfit for the position, or the men should leave the department.

Mr. Hunter thought the committee should not interfere in this matter. The Chief was responsible for the efficiency of the Fire Department, and he could not succeed in giving satisfaction if the committee deprived him of his rightful authority.

Mr. Walker said he had something to say in behalf of the two men who were suspended. He had been visited by John Swan, the Democratic candidate for Mayor, who asked him to go around with him to see the "boys." He took Mr. Swan to the hose house and introduced him to Showers and Pepperine, who are Democrats, and asked them to go out with Swan. They would not have gone if he had not told them to go, and if they had done wrong that belonging to the service. Long testified that he had no jealous feeling against any officer and did not believe that any of them would be interfere with others.

Adjourned until nine o'clock this morning.

ANNIVERSARY.

The Women's Christian Association—Annual Reports of the Officers.

The anniversary meeting of the Women's Christian Association of Pittsburgh and Allegheny was held Sunday evening in Christ's M. E. Church, Penn avenue. After the usual religious exercises, Rev. I. C. Pershing read the Ninth annual report of the officers, from which we take the following:

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

The Secretary, Cornelia McFadden, gives an interesting account of the various branches of work conducted by the Association. In her introduction she says that during the nine years of the existence of the organization "an approving Providence has signally nourished and blessed what was begun in comparative weakness, until at the present time, the Association embraces *nine* distinct branches, including *five* chartered institutions, free from all incumbrances, whose approximate valuation is $200,000, and whose entire interests require an annual expenditure of $10,000. In addition to this temporal outlook, a yearly increased facilities for accomplishing good, as well as the assurance of evincing to the most incredulous, the power of well directed systematized efforts in practical Christianity."

THE TEMPORARY HOME.

The Temporary Home for destitute women, at 45 Chatham street is inadequate both in respect to size and conveniences, to the demands made upon it. Its mission has always been very encouraging. A clean, comfortable bed, wholesome food, clothing, when needed, and assistance in procuring employment have been furnished to destitute women of all ages, classes and conditions; while kindly religious influences, embracing family worship, Sabbath services and weekly gospel readings by the President, have not been wanting. During the year three hundred and thirty-three homeless persons have been admitted to this Home. Of this number sixty-six were children. Eighty-four were discharged—ten for insubordination and fourteen to go to the City Farm; thirty-nine were dismissed at their own request; four desiring to reform, were sent to Sheltering Arms; seventeen were sent to friends; four to go to Passavant's, and two to West Pennsylvania Hospitals; thirty-nine lodged for a single night; six were referred to Catholics; eighteen left to seek employment; nine travelers, with three children, having no means with which to secure a night's lodging, remained for a night and went on their way rejoicing, leaving their benediction. The maintenance of this Home upon a self-sustaining basis would be impossible, but the care with which it is managed is shown by the fact that the total expenses for the year were but $1,232 19.

ZENANA MISSION.

In grateful recognition of what the reliqion of our Lord Jesus Christ has done for the women of this highly favored land, it was deemed expedient to incorporate a branch of foreign work, with an especial view to interesting portions of children in the missionary efforts. Great care has been exercised, not to interfere with, or supplant existing church societies; but the desire has been to incite to additional efforts in the cause with the following gratifying results. Eleven bands have been formed, including one organized during the past year; they are: "The Orphan Asylum," "St. Andrew's Episcopal church," "Torch Bearers," of Lawrenceville Presbyterian church; "Little Band," of the First Reformed Presbyterian church, Pittsburgh; "Lillian Band," of St. Andrews; "F. A. Noble," of Third Presbyterian church, Pittsburgh; one in Monthly Protestant church," Allegheny; "B. F. Woodburn," Baptist church, Allegheny; "Emerson," of Plymouth Congregational, Allegheny; "H. K. Porter, Bayard, Pittsburgh, and "Centennial," of First Methodist Protestant, Allegheny. The total sum contributed by these bands is $604 25, being in excess of the last year's receipts $632 02, which has been sent to India, Japan and Mexico.

THE AGED PROTESTANT WOMEN'S HOME.

It is unnecessary to enlarge upon the advantages of this institution. It has enjoyed the confidence and sympathy of the public ever since its organization, which has resulted in the most generous donations from each other upon its success and continued prosperity. At the close of the sixth year of the existence of the Home for Aged Protestant Women, the managers feel gratified in being able to report that they have fully met the object for which it was established. During the year four of the inmates have died. Thirty inmates will remain to enjoy the comforts of the Home and call for the performance of our duty in providing for their wants.

THE SHELTERING ARMS.

One of the most absorbing subjects of interest in our Association is unquestionably the rescue of fallen young women. How to effect their permanent release from a bondage that is not without its attractions, as well as its miseries, is a question of vital importance. A beautiful Home has been erected without the city limits, and attractively furnished. Its doors have been thrown open to all who sincerely desire to reform, but comparatively few have accepted its proffered privileges, owing in part to misapprehensions in regard to the requirements. This fact has tended to prejudice a thoughtless public, who are too prone to estimate any association by large numerical results. Six years of trying experience has however demonstrated to the managers of this institution, that a little encouragement, may seem slow and feeble to those unacquainted with the difficulties in the way, they themselves are more hopeful than ever before. It was never intended to make this a home of ease and luxury. Work has proved to be the main spring of success in all our modern reformatory institutions. To furnish suitable employment to the inmates of Sheltering Arms, is our earnest endeavor. They are required to take entire charge of the household duties; are taught to sew as well as to read and write, and long cherished plans of industrial and scquaintanceship with various trades, by which the young women shall be enabled to earn an honest living when they go out into the world. Within the past two years a department has been added, known as the "Hospital for Incurables," where respectable women receive medical treatment and careful attention for the small compensation of three dollars per week. The mere presence of the sick has exercised a softening, sanctifying influence, and the work of nursing itself is regarded as one of the best agencies for restoring the lost womanly purity and quickening purer affections that lie hidden in every woman's heart. Efforts in behalf of the rescue of fallen woman must always be largely experimental.

YOUNG WOMEN'S BOARDING HOME,

No. 53 Anderson street, Allegheny, closes the sixth year of its existence in a highly prosperous condition. A very satisfactory change has been made in the plan of work hitherto pursued. Instead of monthly visiting committees having charge of all matters pertaining to the Home during the month, the following regular committees have been appointed: Executive, Reception, House, Purchasing, Repairs and Furnishing, Devotional, Employment, Entertainment, and an Advisory Committee of business men to advise in all important pecuniary affairs. This new arrangement has effected a more equal division of labor, systematized the work, and brought all the managers into more personal relations with the boarders. The plan seems an admirable one and we direct the attention of the other boards to its method of operation.

One hundred and sixty young women have been accommodated during the year. The average number during the week having been fourteen.

GILMORE MISSION AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

One of the most interesting, encouraging, features of our work is the Gilmore Mission and Industrial School, which is in session every Saturday afternoon from November to April. Little girls, as far as possible from the neglected classes, are gathered in, taught to sew and sing, receive religious instruction and as rewards of industry, good behaviour, etc., secure for themselves the garments they make. The schoolroom at Old avenue and Diamond street has recently been fitted up with new benches, by a generous friend, a female superintendent has been engaged who visits the children at their homes, and with its various attractions this department so dear to the heart of the entire association, promises a yield an abundant harvest. During the past year two hundred scholars have been in attendance, and there has been a fuller complement of regular, zealous teachers than heretofore.

THE LADIES DEPOSITORY.

The Ladies' Depository and Employment Office, No. 208 Penn avenue, Pittsburgh, was established four years ago for the purpose of aiding competent women in procuring employment. All kinds of plain and fancy needlework are given out, as well as received on deposit for sale. The demand for work has always been greatly in excess of the supply. During the year, 1,349 articles have been made by the depositors and workers. These articles embrace an interesting variety of female handiwork from the darning of socks, repairing of garments and making of button holes to the most skillful embroideries, zephyr goods, children's clothing and elaborate suits of ladies' apparel. The dress making department is a recent experiment but promises to be a profitable one, forty suits and twelve overdresses having been made. The managers respectfully solicit the patronage of the general public.

HOSPITAL COMMITTEE.

The members of this committee report weekly visits to the male and female wards of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Sabbath afternoon services conducted by ministers of different denominations, and prayer meetings conducted by one of their own number. They have also engaged in Bible readings and prayer with individual inmates, distributed secular and religious literature, supplied muslin for bandages, etc., and have been kindly received by all. The association realizes deeply how much this work might be enlarged by the accession of suitable volunteers in this especially needy and peculiarly interesting field. Who will come over and help us? In this connection we thankfully acknowledge the co operation of The Fruit and Flower Charity, which has sent contributions not only to the Hospital, but to the Homes under our immediate care.

THE EAST LIBERTY ASSOCIATION.

This branch of earnest workers united with us a year ago. They have been engaged in the establishment and prosecution of a mission night school for boys, and have been entrusted with the distribution of the Easter relief fund. Acceptable prayer meetings have also been maintained by the members at Sheltering Arms, and Aged Women's Home.

NEW YORK PROPOSED.

A new work is however under consideration and a committee consisting of Mrs. F. R. Brunot, Mrs. F. Woods, Mrs. L. H. Eaton, Mrs. O. O. Phillips and Mrs. Thomas McFadden, Jr., has been appointed to make investigations and suggest plans for its furtherance. It is proposed to make an effort in behalf of the homeless, neglected boys under the age of fifteen, who throng our streets by day and sleep at night in printing offices, market stalls, corners and alleys. The precise nature of this movement cannot be stated at present. It is believed that the Gilmore Mission building could be utilized as a home for such boys. At least the experiment might be tested there, in the way of fitting up two or three rooms as dormitories, etc., reserving the main audience rooms for evening entertainments. Or, what would be more desirable, dispose of the Temporary Home and Gilmore Mission, and secure a large central building, where these two branches of work might be prosecuted unitedly. We desire to save these boys from the sad consequences of idleness, intemperance and crime. The whole public heart beats in sympathetic unison with this movement, and we trust the close of the year will find such a refuge in successful operation.

MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Three delegates from each of the organized Branches, with regularly elected officers, constitute the Board of Managers of the Association. Regular meetings are held upon the last Thursday of each month, in the parlor of the Young Men's Christian Association, Fifth avenue, at ten o'clock A. M., to which all persons interested are most cordially invited. The annual membership fee has been reduced to one dollar, and we desire to add the names of at least five hundred women to our list. What an array of helpers this would be!

OFFICERS AND MANAGERS.

President—Mrs. F. R. Brunot. First Vice President—Mrs. James Irwin. Second Vice President—Mrs. Eliza Sands.

Secretary—Mrs. Thos. McFadden, Jr.

Treasurer—Mrs. Frank Woods.

MANAGERS.

Delegates from Temporary Home—Mrs. W. A. Herron, Mrs. Eliza Loomis, Mrs. M. H. Magoffin.

Zenana Mission—Mrs. O. O. Phillip, Mrs. M. K. Moorhead, Mrs. S. Bryan.

Aged Protestant Women's Home—Miss J. Holmes, Mrs. James Irwin, Mrs. S. McKee.

Young Women's Boarding Home—Mrs. S. T. Lowrie, Mrs. L. H. Eaton, Mrs. J. B. Sanderson.

Sheltering Arms—Mrs. G. H. Thurston, Mrs. S. S. Marvin, Mrs. E. S. Nowrup.

Gilmore Mission—Mrs. H. C. Dickinson, Mrs. Levi Dillon, Miss C. La Taurette.

Ladies' Depository—Mrs. W. P. Logan, Mrs. A. C. Kay, Mrs. Wm. Vankirk.

Hospital Committee—Mrs. C. A. Oudry.

Young Women's Christian Association, East Liberty—Miss Meskimen, Miss McConnell, Miss L. E. Batchelor.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Women's Christian Association (general fund), Mrs. Frank Woods, Treasurer: Receipts, $711 38; expenditures, $105 71; balance, $605 67.

Temporary Home for Destitute Women, Miss M. A. Sterling, Treasurer: Receipts, $1,563 83; expenditures, $1,232 19; balance, $331 64.

Home for Protestant Women, Miss M. L. Jackson, Treasurer: Receipts, $4,792 56; expenditures, $3,456 91; balance, $1,333 65.

Boarding Home, Mrs. Wm. Vankirk, Treasurer: Receipts, $2,852 47; expenditures, $2,761 29; balance, $91 18; contingent fund at interest, $326 40.

Sheltering Arms, Miss M. Sterling, Treasurer: Receipts, $1,356 66; expenditures, $1,284 09; balance, $72 57.

Pittsburgh branch of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of America, Mrs. M. K. Moorhead, Treasurer—Total collection, $647 02.

Gilmore Mission and Industrial School, Mrs. H. C. Clapp, Treasurer—Receipts, $400 27; expenditures, $143 18; balance, $257 09.

Ladies' Depository and Employment Office, Miss H. L. Moorhead, Treasurer—Receipts, $1,019 49; expenditures, $962 66; balance, $56 83.

THE SOCIAL EVIL.

How Shall Fallen Women be Reclaimed?—Discussion by the Ministerial Association.

The Ministerial Association met yesterday, at the usual place, Rev. Reese Alsop, President, in the chair. The subject for discussion being, "How shall we save Lost Women?" Job and appropriate scripture lesson was read by the President, and Rev. S. F. Scovel led in prayer.

MARRIAGE LICENSE LAW.

Rev. R. R. Moore reported progress in regard to the marriage license law, now before the Legislature, and offered resolutions—that the Ministerial Association cordially indorse the bill; that the Rev. T. H. Robinson, D. D., Rev. C. A. Holmes, D. D., Rev. J. T. Judd and Rev. John Paxton, of Harrisburg, be requested to use their personal influence in securing the passage of the bill; and that the press of Pittsburgh be requested to give their support to the bill.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

THE SOCIAL EVIL.

Rev. Dr. Pearson, who was assigned to open the discussion of the question, "How Shall we Save Lost Women?" was not present, and Mr. Scovel announced that the Rev. Samuel Williams would take his place.

Mr. Williams thought that many ministers were derelict in not preaching more directly and pointedly on the subject of marriage, and the terrible evils committed in violation of the sacred relation. In this way the evil under consideration could be checked. The circulation of obscene literature, and the "variety theaters," were prolific sources of evil, corrupting the morals of the youth of all large cities. These evils could, perhaps, only be reached effectually by the police magistrates; but the more portion of the influence of the ministers and church members, could do much towards aiding in checking and suppressing the social evil. He referred to the institution known as the "Sheltering Arms," and to the efforts made by a society of ladies of this city to save fallen women. Ministers could do much to aid and encourage these efforts; and if they labored in the right direction, they would receive the promised blessing.

Rev. F. L. Senour followed. Reticence had been the usual policy in dealing with the social evil, but the time seems to have come for endeavoring, at least, to find a remedy. He alluded to the evil as it existed among the Romans, and other ancient nations, and gave statistics as to the magnitude of the evil as its exists in this country. There were various causes assigned for the fall of women, the leading cause being destitution. Seduction and intemper